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Saturday

TIMES

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10pm-11pmWhy Bush fears  
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from our westTime and the  
scientistStephen Hawking's  
physical disability has  
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explorationsAt last, the  
Gibbons showThe best work of  
Grinling Gibbons, past  
master of sculpted  
wood, finally gets an  
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LIVING

A rainbow  
of hopeDitta O'Cathain on  
dreaming in colour in  
her job as director of  
the much-maligned  
Barbican Arts CentreBillionaire  
barbariansWhose job should it be  
to stem the rising tide  
of art robberies?

SPORT

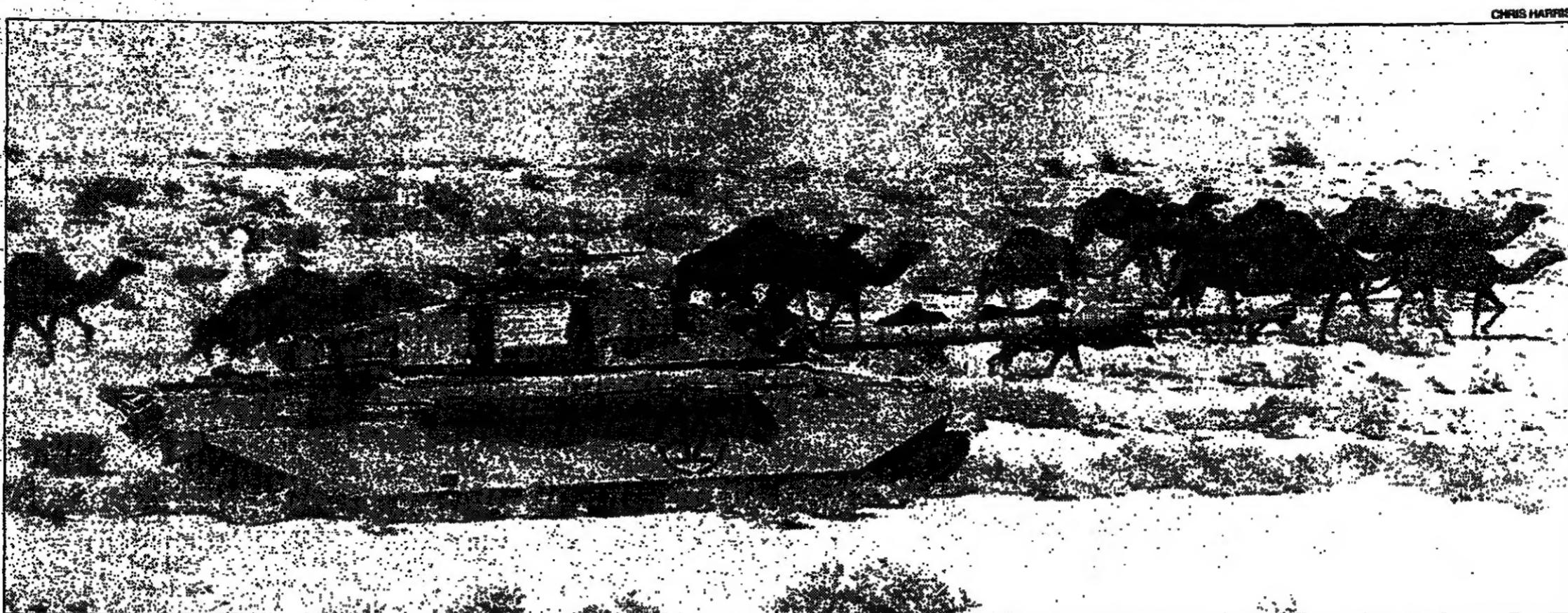
They're ready  
minus EddieThere is more to  
British skiing than the  
exploits of Eddie  
Edwards. Brian James  
joined the team

MONEY

Follow that  
pensionAn interview with the  
man who tracks down  
thousands of "lost"  
pensionsClocks go back  
British summer time ends at  
2am tomorrow. Clocks and  
watches should be put back  
one hour to 1am (GMT). In  
1991 the summer time period  
will be from March 31 to  
October 27.

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Onward into the desert: the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, renowned for the Charge of the Light Brigade, taking the first British tanks into the Saudi desert from Dhahran yesterday.

## Hatton held in police raids over land deals

By RONALD FAUX

DEREK Hatton, the flamboyant former deputy leader of Liverpool city council, was among 22 people arrested yesterday morning in a series of raids by police investigating allegedly corrupt council land deals.

Clive Atkinson, Merseyside assistant chief constable for crime said: "This is only the first phase of what has already become a major enquiry. Merseyside police are determined to get to the bottom of recurring allegations which have riddled the city in recent years. We have a duty to the people of Merseyside to investigate and, where sufficient evidence exists, to place people before the courts. This morning's activity does not mark the end of the enquiry. It is only the beginning."

Mr Atkinson said the investigation would be long-running and there would be further substantial activity. Police were working closely with the fraud investigation group of the Crown Prosecution Service. He said that police had already uncovered

a lot of information and many people had come forward but he appealed for those with information who may have been reluctant to tell police what they know to come forward.

Mr Hatton emerged from his home in Wavertree, Liverpool, at 9.45 yesterday morning, accompanied by police officers. He was smiling and looked untroubled as they took him to the offices of Settiside, his public relations company in the city centre, where he was interviewed for two-and-a-half hours. Fraud squad officers took material from both his home and the offices and Mr Hatton was then taken to Stanley Road police station, where Operation Cheetah is being co-ordinated.

Liverpool city council has for several years been selling land to help to finance an ambitious house-building programme launched by the deposed Militant-dominated administration of the mid-1980s. Liverpool this year faces a projected deficit of more than £12 million, largely because it is thought unlikely in the depressed property market that it will find more than £53 million from land and property sales. It had been hoping to raise £60 million.

Concern about council land deals first became public in 1985 when David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill, asked questions in Parliament about plans to build a £10 million Asda supermarket in the Speke enterprise zone. Police investigated the deal, but eventually dropped the enquiry.

Mr Alton said last night: "For the past five years, I have consistently pressed for the police and the environment department to investigate Liverpool's financial affairs." He said the city was £750 million in debt because of a combination of political ideology and alleged corruption. "The people of the city have suffered along with its reputation."

Mr Harton, a former firefighter, became involved with the Labour party in 1974. He later joined Militant because he was uneasy about the direction in which Neil

Continued on page 26, col 7

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## Batten down the hatches warning

By LIN JENKINS

GUIDELINES to householders on how to limit storm damage have been issued by the Association of British Insurers, following the warning from the meteorological office that stormy weather is expected to begin battering much of Britain from tomorrow night.

The association suggested doors and windows be shut, garden furniture and children's bicycles and toys be put away and ladders and scaffolding taken down. Cars should be garaged or moved away from trees and potential hazards and gutters and roofs checked for blockages and loose tiles.

The London weather centre has warned that stormy weather from tomorrow night is likely to cause structural damage and computer predictions have indicated a weather pattern similar to that of last January, when winds of more than 70 mph caused the deaths of 47 people, felled trees and resulted in £1 billion worth of damage to buildings.

The reluctance then to issue a public warning was less evident yesterday when meteorologists said they were sure a depression, monitored leaving Newfoundland, was heading for Britain.

Weathermen predict the worst of the winds will hit western and northern areas and be strongest over high ground. The stormy spell is expected to last until Tuesday.

• Crew rescued: The British three-man crew of the Grace, a crippled 37-foot yacht, was rescued yesterday eight hours after the vessel capsized and rolled 360 degrees in Atlantic gales.

They were picked up by the Turkish registered Elkin 29 on its way to Holland.

Today's weather, page 26

## Israel justifies Temple Mount use of firearms

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

TO ANGRY Arab protests, the eagerly awaited official Israeli report on October 8 yesterday criticised the handling of the riots by senior police commanders but justified the use of live ammunition because the lives of policemen had been in danger.

The report of the three-man investigation team, led by General Zvi Zamir, attributed the cause of the riots to stone-throwing by Arab demonstrators "incited by preachers on loudspeakers." This was a "serious criminal offence" which had sparked off the "tragic chain of events".

Palestinian sources have claimed that the riots began when police lobbed tear gas at the crowd assembled on Temple Mount, either by accident or design.

The report said police had "gathered in an unsupervised manner" and accused it of "an indiscriminate use of live ammunition". But the rescue of two policemen trapped inside the Temple Mount police station had "justified a quick operation and the use of all means."

The Zamir report criticised Rahamim Conforti, the head of Police Southern Command

Shamir yesterday: blamed 'Arab provocation'

# Molyneaux fears Brooke initiative will not succeed

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AS THE deadlock on the government's initiative on devolution for Northern Ireland continues, Jim Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, has spoken of his fear that the process will not succeed.

Mr Molyneaux has not abandoned hope of the "Brooke initiative" producing inter-party talks in the province, but he said he was now more pessimistic about its prospects than at any time since the breakdown on July 5.

Mr Molyneaux, who will address his party at its annual conference in Newcastle, Co Down, today, said he was no longer sure that he was right to have accepted the claim by Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland Secretary, made in January at the launch of the initiative, that there was sufficient common ground between the constitutional parties for talks on devolution.

"Maybe, with hindsight, I was at fault for accepting the rather optimistic basis of his speech (at Bangor) on the January 9." Once the process had been started, however, Mr Molyneaux was anxious not to disclose his instinctive fears that it would probably come to nothing.

"We kept sounding optimistic and so forth, but we had the niggling fear that someone, somewhere would torpedo the whole operation," he said. He felt the initiative was the latest example of civil servants at the Northern Ireland Office persuading successive secretaries of state to try something, even though political conditions and attitudes had

not changed sufficiently to give the initiatives a reasonable chance of success.

In this case, he said, the dispute over the timing of Dublin's involvement with Northern Ireland politicians as part of a three-tiered structure of talks was not a specific problem that had arisen by chance, but a reflection of the continuing deep mistrust between the two communities in Ulster.

Mr Molyneaux said that his main fear all along had been that the Brooke process was logically bound to arrive at some form of "permanent compulsory coalition" at Stormont. He believed that it would be unworkable, citing the elections when unionists and nationalists would fight on opposing tickets, only to return to government together — a process he believed made a mockery of the very existence of separate parties.

He also believed that the approach of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party to its discussions with Mr Brooke had been based throughout on the assumption that Northern Ireland was no longer being treated as part of the United Kingdom. "That's how they based their ideas for a completely new structure which was going to transcend everything else," he said.

"That was all very well for them, but you can't transcend the awkward reality that Northern Ireland is currently a part of the UK, and there's no indication that the vast majority of people, Protestant and Roman Catholic alike, want to change that status.

"So you can't possibly start from a baseline that Northern Ireland is out on its own, and say 'here's a bone handy in the south of Ireland, let's see how we can merge the two together.' That was really the thrust of SDLP philosophy."

Mr Molyneaux indicated that he believed a decision either to progress with the initiative or abandon it should be made soon, to put an end to the instability and rumour which, he said, encouraged the activities of the IRA. In the meantime, he would be renewing his efforts to persuade the Northern Ireland Office, and Mr Brooke, to take steps to improve the government of Northern Ireland through the introduction of legislation by parliamentary bills to replace orders in council, and the creation of a select committee, in spite of a decision by Westminster that there would be no such committee.

● Mrs Thatcher was last night accused of encouraging the IRA by supporting the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Enoch Powell, the former Conservative and Ulster Unionist MP, said that the prime minister's backing of the 1985 agreement meant that she was helping the terrorists to achieve their aim.

Mr Powell added: "Is it not her signature, her ink, upon the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which conceded a privileged position in this part of the United Kingdom to the state whose very constitution enshrines the claim which the IRA are prosecuting through violence and murder?"

## 'Dublingate' tape comes back to haunt candidate

By OUR IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLITICS in the Irish Republic has always been enlivened by nasty scandals but there will probably never be a better one than what has rapidly become known as "Dublingate".

The question is: did Brian Lenihan, the deputy prime minister and Fianna Fail presidential candidate, telephone the Irish president on the night of January 27, 1982, to try to persuade him not to dissolve parliament?

Nearly nine years later it may seem a bit late to consider this question. Mr Lenihan's recent answers to it, however, have thrust him and the government into a crisis that might cost him what seemed like a certain victory in the presidential race next month. Worse still, it could lead to a general election if a no-confidence vote in the government succeeds next week.

The suggestion is that senior members of Fianna Fail sought to influence Patrick Hillery, the president, as he considered whether to dis-

solve parliament after the Fine Gael/Labour coalition under Dr Garret Fitzgerald was unexpectedly defeated on a budget motion. This has been subsumed, however, by accusations that Mr Lenihan, who is alleged to have been one of three members of Fianna Fail's front bench that called that night, has lied to the Irish people.

The scandal emerged last Monday on RTE television's *Questions and Answers* programme, Ireland's equivalent of *Question Time*, when Dr Fitzgerald said that the president had been besieged by phone calls from senior Fianna Fail MPs and that Mr Lenihan was among the most persistent. Mr Lenihan, also on the programme, flatly denied making any calls.

Yesterday *The Irish Times* struck what appears to have been a devastating blow to Mr Lenihan when it published a transcript of a taped interview recorded by him last May with a Dublin student. In the

interview he clearly recalls that he was one of three people who phoned Dr Hillery, including the prime minister, Charles Haughey, who was then in opposition. Mr Lenihan now denies that he was talking accurately at the time.

The affair has provoked accusations by government ministers that Mr Lenihan has been the target of a smear campaign by the opposition parties.

Alan Dukes, the Fine Gael leader, who has tabled motions of no confidence in Mr Lenihan and in the government due to be debated next week, says that Mr Lenihan is now not fit to be president. A general election could follow a defeat for the government on the motions if the junior coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, vote with the opposition. However, the party's poor support in the polls at this stage means that it is unlikely to want to risk an election.

## BRADFORD & BINGLEY BUILDING SOCIETY NEW RATES OF INTEREST FOR BORROWERS

Notice is given to borrowers whose existing variable rate loan or mortgage was completed before 23rd February 1990 that the rates charged will be reduced by 0.9% on 1st November 1990.

Those borrowers on Fixed Rate Mortgages will continue to be charged the agreed rate until the end of the period stated in their offer of mortgage.

Under our procedure for reviewing subscriptions annually, all borrowers will be notified of any revised interest rate and monthly payment with their annual statement in January 1991. No change will be made to borrowers' monthly payments before that date. However those members who wish to immediately receive details of their interest rate, or change their monthly payment, can enquire at their local Branch Office.

1. For those with mortgages between £90,000 and £59,999 where the loan was 75% or less of valuation, the rate charged will be reduced by 0.25% on 1st November 1990.

2. For those with mortgages of £60,000 and above where the loan was 75% or less of valuation, the rate charged will be reduced by 0.6% on 1st November 1990.

3. For those with any other mortgage the rate charged will remain at the current level.

For all other borrowers completing since 23rd February 1990 and before 11th October 1990 and whose mortgage benefits from the special 0.9% rate reduction for new business, the rate of interest will be affected as follows:



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## TUC and pay restraint

Meetings between the unions, employers and government may be a step back to a new way forward, Philip Bassett writes. A TUC idea will be discussed next week

BEER and sandwiches at Number 107. The return of the social contract, the pay concordat? Suddenly, a new, old idea is reintroduced: the prospect of a return to tripartite bargaining over wages, of the government, employers and unions sitting together to talk about incomes.

After a long period of political dormancy, pay is again a political as well as an economic issue. With inflation at 10.9 per cent, unemployment on the rise, interest rates high and Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism, wage restraint — whether imposed by the disciplines of the ERM, or dictated by government ministers — is seen as vital to economic recovery.

The cause is that the notion of wages responsibility is coming from the government, employers and from the unions too. The TUC has submitted a 16-page document, *Europe 1992 and After-Challenges for Britain*, for next week's quarterly meeting of the tripartite National Economic Development Council, to be chaired by Michael Howard, the employment

minister. The TUC paper does not advocate a return to full-blown corporatism, to bear and sandwiches with the government. It is a summary of the TUC's position on the economy and Europe, including wages, in the wake of Britain's ERM entry.

TUC insiders say that the use of the word "responsibilities" in relation to pay costs is the key to its position, and wholly different from anything the TUC has said on this issue in ten years. It is close to the idea of more synchronised pay bargaining including a tripartite National Economic Assessment, which the TUC backed at its annual congress. That proposal is linked to a forthcoming Labour government. The TUC's Nedc paper is for next week, for discussion with this — Conservative — government.

Union leaders were divided about the document yesterday. Bill Jordan, president of the AEU engineering union, who will present the paper to the Nedc meeting, said that it was being misinterpreted. He said the thrust of the TUC's case would be the need to talk about adapting the

whole of the economy, not just wages, to the demands of the European single market.

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# Young witnesses tell Marsh jury of hooded figure

By MICHAEL HOSKIN

CHILDREN who saw a hooded figure waiting on a pavement in the dark minutes before the shooting of the boxing promoter Frank Warren decided to tease the man, a jury was told yesterday.

The encounter was related at the Central Criminal Court yesterday where the former world boxing champion Terry Marsh, aged 32, is accused of attempting to murder Mr Warren, his former manager, on November 30 last year.

Bradley Parsons, aged 17, told of the encounter with the hooded man minutes before the shooting. He said: "I decided to go and speak to him. I got up close. He was wearing a green army-like jacket that was really long, just above the knees. I asked him the time. He said something, but I didn't hear him because

of the scarf. I couldn't understand him."

He then pulled his right hand out of his pocket and showed me his watch. He was wearing black leather gloves and underneath the gloves was this cling-film you could see coming out of the gloves at the time.

The youngsters went away but decided to return to see if the man was still there. Bradley said: "He was still in the same place and I went up to him again. The others came with me this time. I asked him what he was waiting for. He said he was waiting for his mates. He was going to go down the club. I asked him his name. He just said Paul."

John Richardson, aged 14, told the court that he listened as his friend had the brief conversation with the man and added: "The man who I saw reminded me of someone."

"He reminded me of Terry Marsh. I had seen him in the flesh at a swimming pool in Dagenham because he was there training to be a swimmer. We were at the pool together about one and a half hours. I spoke to him at the time. It was behind a scarf so it was a bit muffled. But it was a local sort of voice."

Under cross-examination by Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Marsh, who denies the charge, John Richardson agreed that in a statement he made to police after the shooting he did not mention that the strange figure bore

"The boy, who said he had seen the boxer on television, added: "The man I had seen that night reminded me of Terry Marsh. It was the same sort of build and height. I am not sure about the voice, because when I saw him at the theatre it was behind a scarf so it was a bit muffled. But it was a local sort of voice."

Asked if he could see the gunman's face after the two men had grappled with each other, Mr Botros said: "I simply put my head down and ran at the gunman. I was not trying to catch his identity, I was trying to stop the gunman killing Frank Warren."

The trial continues on Monday.

## Mortgage fraudster jailed for six years

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FINANCIAL consultant was jailed for six years yesterday for his part in a web of conspiracies involving mortgage frauds worth £160 million.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Nasrullah Khan, aged 47, of Cambridge, a financial consultant and mortgage broker, had unlawfully obtained mortgages worth £1.38 million. Living on the proceeds of fraud he had bought a six-bedroom house, his three daughters were in private education and he drove a Mercedes.

Khan and an accomplice, Sajid Sagoo, aged 33, a shopkeeper of Chapman, south-west London, obtained mortgages from building societies and other financial institutions by using fictitious names, and surveys which gave properties inflated values, the court was told.

Sagoo, who obtained mortgages worth £247,000, was jailed for two years and ordered to pay £25,000 costs.

The two were the last in a succession of mortgage cheats to be sentenced following an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. Four solicitors, five accountants, four surveyors and six mortgage brokers have been convicted in a series of court hearings which started in May last year.

Khan, who has three previous convictions for dishonesty, and Sagoo were both found guilty of plotting to obtain mortgages dishonestly. Khan had forged references, contracts, powers of attorney, and affidavits to support bogus applications.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, told him: "It has been very difficult to keep track of all the lies you told to one building society or another. There were so many of them. In the course of this major fraud you corrupted or used a number of other people in a quite ruthless manner."

## Probation officers make strike threat over pay

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROBATION officers yesterday threatened national industrial action over a pay claim to compensate them for working nights and weekends.

A call for the 7,000 officers in England and Wales to be balloted on industrial action was unanimously endorsed by the National Association of Probation Officers' annual conference, which is being held in Brighton.

The conference was also told that there might be a militant reaction from officers over government plans to privatisate a remand centre, and to the Home Office's refusal to substantially increase staffing levels in probation hostels.

John Roberts, chairman of the association, said officers were working an average of 42½ hours a week, five hours more than they should, and did not get paid overtime.

Strike action by probation officers would delay many court proceedings and could mean the withdrawal of supervision of offenders, serving community punishments. The delegates agreed to oppose the

government's decision to invite private firms to tender for the management of Evingthorpe remand centre on Humberstone. Proposing the motion, Peter Wright, of the Humberstone Probation Service, said the move was an obscenity. "It doesn't need the Corrections Corporation of America or Securicor to provide proper toilet facilities in prisons or proper regimes for remand prisoners who may be locked up for 23 hours a day," he said.

The 900 delegates also urged the department to ensure that every probation hostel should have a minimum of two officers on duty, and called for anti-sexism training for all jail staff.

Women probation officers working in prisons said they were the butt of sexually explicit comments and jokes and were "touched up" by colleagues. Jackie Hutchinson, a probation officer at Ford open prison, near Arundel, West Sussex, said: "An atmosphere of oppression prevails where power is all

made in an extremely macho way." She added: "In prisons, reality is skewed, emotions and behaviour tend to be exaggerated and heightened. Macho behaviour is the norm, and constitutes the power base."

Ms Hutchinson said: "Sexism operates in overt and covert ways, manifesting itself in language and behaviour which operates daily, and on all levels, coming from prison officers, inmates and colleagues."

Tony Mercer, a South Yorkshire probation officer on secondment to Lindholme prison, Doncaster, said that some male probation officers were openly sexist towards female colleagues.

The conference also urged that women probation officers should only work in male prisons by consent, and that they should be able to leave without damaging their careers. Napo should provide support and advice to women members who were victims of sexual harassment and sexism in prisons.

## Scientists in cold fusion dispute

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DISPUTE has broken out between two scientists who claim to have discovered an inexhaustible source of energy and the state of Utah, which has spent \$3 million (£2.6 million) supporting their work.

Stanley Pons, of Utah university, and Martin Fleischmann, of Southampton university, the inventors of cold fusion, failed to attend a meeting this week in Salt Lake City to review their work and determine whether to continue supporting it. There were reports that both men had gone to ground.

Professor Fleischmann said yesterday that he had not been told about the meeting and that "everybody in Utah" knew where he was and how to get in touch with him. "If I am asked to go back, I will travel," he said.

He would be happy to discuss his work with the four-member review panel set up by the state of Utah. "The only limitation is that our work is the subject of patent applications and that limits what we can say about it," he said.

Officials of Utah university and the National Cold Fusion Institute in Salt Lake City told the *New York Times* last week that they could not find either of the two scientists.

Fritz Will, director of the institute where the two are employed, said that they had been a breakdown in communication and it had become clear that the two doctors "in contrast to their repeated declarations, are unwilling to

co-operate with the institute or the state committee in participating in any useful review of their work."

In March last year Professor Pons and Professor Fleischmann said they had found a way of fusing light atoms in a test tube to provide enormous amounts of energy. The claim created much excitement until it became clear that other scientists could not duplicate it, and today few scientists believe in it.

Professor Fleischmann said yesterday that he and his colleagues were completely

confident about the science.

"It's unbelievable that people should still question this work." He denied reports that Professor Pons had disappeared from Salt Lake City leaving no forwarding address. "They knew perfectly well how to get in touch with him," he said.

The point of contact with both scientists is through Gary Triggs, their American lawyer, who said last week that Professor Pons had asked for a year's sabbatical from the university to work on the project.

## Frozen passport to a kind of eternity

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TWO hundred years from now, Alan Sinclair expects to be out and about shopping, visiting the cinema and drinking in his local public house with his wife and eldest son.

He has joined delegates and scientists from across Europe and the United States for the first European Cryonics Conference which opens today at Gatwick. They will discuss topics such as the legal status of being frozen before clinical death and techniques to preserve tissue without damaging ice-crystal formation. Being frozen while healthy, they believe, could increase the chances of a successful resurrection.

A fit-looking computer engineer, aged 52, from near Eastbourne, Mr Sinclair has put £300,000 towards estab-

lishing a freezing facility near Gatwick, which he believes will be a passport to a kind of eternity.

When the doctors pronounce Mr Sinclair clinically dead, he will be sent to Gatwick where his corpse will be pumped with preservative fluids and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Some 24 hours later, his body will be in the Alcor Life Extension Foundation, based in Riverside, California, after a flight in a specially designed cabinet.

When medical science and technology has advanced sufficiently he believes that he and his family will be brought back to life.

"It is a gamble but I believe a realistic one," Mr Sinclair said. "I do not think there is much choice. There will come a time when medicine will be

able to do nothing and once you are buried or cremated, that's it."

Before approaching insurance agents for a policy to cover the \$120,000 needed for a whole body freeze, Mr Sinclair consulted three British doctors on issues of clinical death and the preservation procedures used by American organisations offering cryonics services, Alcor, Trans Time and the Cryonics Institute.

Mr Sinclair said: "They all felt it was futuristic but believed it may have a chance. When I contacted the local coroner I expected a laughing bag but he had heard of cryonics and had been expecting it to come here. He said there was no law against it."

Mike Darwin, director of research at Alcor, said that the

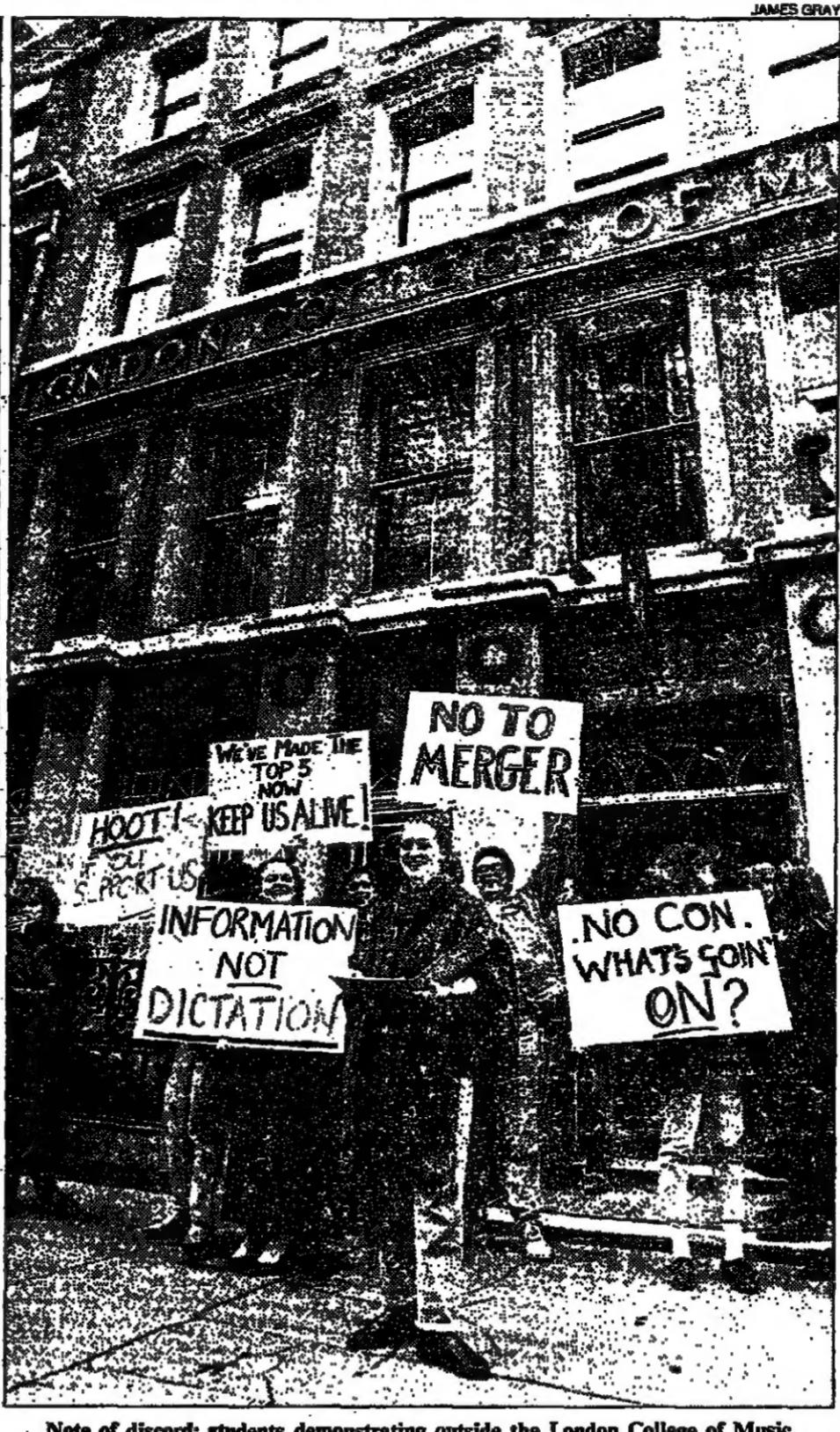
increasing interest in Europe and the more relaxed laws in Britain, make it likely that European members will be stored at Gatwick by the turn of the century rather than in California. He talks of the service being more an unorthodox method of patient care capable of cutting hospital waiting lists.

Mr Sinclair has opted for a whole body freeze because "I liked the idea of being a good looking corpse" but many of the 190 United States and some of the 12 British members who have signed up, have chosen to have their heads frozen for just \$45,000.

They believe that emerging technologies will be able to mend damaged cells and clone back the person's body from brain cells.



Fleischmann: "Everyone knows where I am"



Note of discord: students demonstrating outside the London College of Music yesterday over merger plans with Ealing college of higher education, west London

## £1bn programme to build hospitals halted by slump

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE £1 billion-a-year National Health Service hospital building programme has been held up by the slump in the property market, a minister has disclosed.

About £200 million of the programme, covering 450 schemes at various stages of development depends on regional health authorities selling off surplus land. Because of the slump, health regions in London and the South-East are having particular difficulty in raising enough money to proceed with their plans and are being forced to delay big projects.

The official admission that the health service would have to shoulder its share of the burden of the property slump came from Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister. He was being badgered by a group of Tory MPs from Essex, who are furious over the decision by North-East Thames region to cancel plans costing £40 million to bring the Princess Alexandra hospital together on one site in Harlow.

Mr Dorrell told them: "It is unrealistic to expect the NHS investment programme to escape unscathed the implications of falling land values.

That pressure applies right across the economy." It is understood that the late-night Commons debate earlier this week was followed by an angry meeting between the MPs led by Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, at which they complained about the sudden postponement of big new hospital developments.

Cancellations such as Harlow's are bound to prove worrying to Conservative MPs in marginal seats. North-East Thames is among four Thames regions covering London and the South-East which have been forced to stop any new building schemes other than those already begun or for which contracts have been signed.

Mr Hayes pointed out that the Princess Alexandra project had been halted after the local health district had raised £20 million from a fiercely contested sale of a local hospital. He told the minister: "We want some money – and what is more, we want our money.

Last night the health department was unable to say how many hospital schemes had been delayed.

## Christian links with Jews 'are ignored'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

CHRISTIANS of all denominations have, at times, ignored their profound relationship with the Jewish people, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark says in a pastoral letter to be read at all masses tomorrow.

The Most Rev Michael Bowen, whose letter marks the 25th anniversary of the Vatican text *Nostra Aetate*, says that Christians must find practical ways to better understand the followers of all religions, and especially Jewish people. The death of Jesus is not to be blamed on Jewish people, he says. "The church places special emphasis on our relationship with the Jewish people. Jesus himself was a Jew."

The Archbishop describes *Nostra Aetate*, or *In Our Age*, as "an historic statement about non-Christian religions". The document arose from the desire of Pope John XXIII to heal wounds caused by centuries of Christian antisemitism.

More than 200 people of all major faiths are expected to attend a celebration at Westminster cathedral hall today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the document, which was the first positive official statement made by an ecumenical council on the status and values of the world's major religions.

**Paris fashions a revival**

"Paris fashion, at the spring collections, went against the prevailing timid mood and scaled heights of glamour that would have made Cecil B DeMille proud."

*Tomorrow, The Sunday Times examines how Paris bounced back*

**Behind closed palace doors**

"King Edward VIII dubbed it the 'Aunt Heap' because so many of his elderly relatives lived there."

*In The Sunday Times tomorrow, Brian Hoey provides an inside look at Kensington Palace*

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# Dorchester to open its doors after £100m refurbishment

STEPHEN MARKSON

ANY day now John West, doorman at the Dorchester, will be back on duty, replacing security men who have guarded the hotel through its two-year closure for refurbishment. The drifts of gold leaf whirling in dusty corners are a sign that the hotel's ordeal by builders is almost over. The gilders are the last craftsmen on a flow chart of works that have stripped the place down to the buff.

Yesterday the Duke of Edinburgh marked the re-opening by unveiling a plaque commemorating his stag night held there in November 1947.

Refitting the hotel is taking longer than the 18 months it took "Concrete Bob" McAlpine to put it up in 1931. Newspaper headlines repeated his claim that it was a building that neither bombs nor earthquakes could destroy.

When war came, the Dorchester became the smartest air-raid shelter in London. General Eisenhower and several members of the British cabinet made it their domestic headquarters in the capital.

Soon the fountain will twinkle in the front garden and Mr West, wearing a dark green uniform coat with green and yellow striped waistcoat, will hand the first guests up the steps and in to a foyer unchanged, if fresh

As the most bomb-proof hotel in London prepares to reopen, Shona Crawford Poole looks behind the glitter and bows.

paint and bright new gilding are discounted. The expanse of gilded promenade through the centre of the hotel, is also as it was. Little has been done to alter the appearance of other public rooms.

Restoration of the rooms created as fantasy interiors to dispel post-war gloom by Oliver Messel, the theatrical designer, has been done with reference to his original designs. Lord Snowdon, his nephew, inherited many of the drawings, and John Claridge, one of his assistants on the project, had kept the colour swatches.

Those searching for novelty will find a few additions such as a pair of antique marble hand-basins in the ladies room, remarkable for their loveliness and their cost, at £16,000 each.

All the glamorous front-of-the-house buffing is the icing on this vast refurbishment project. Before the builder, Sir Robert McAlpine, contractor to the

Sultan of Brunei, the present owner, could send his men in, the removers had to take the furniture out.

In went an army of workmen, radios blaring, dust churning. Miles of protective sheeting were taped to painted pillars.

The Dorchester's taps had been a dripping trial to the management for 20 years although the plumbing had been the last word in modernity in 1931. Out it came and in went pale marble bathrooms fitted with what may well be the biggest, deepest, baths in London.

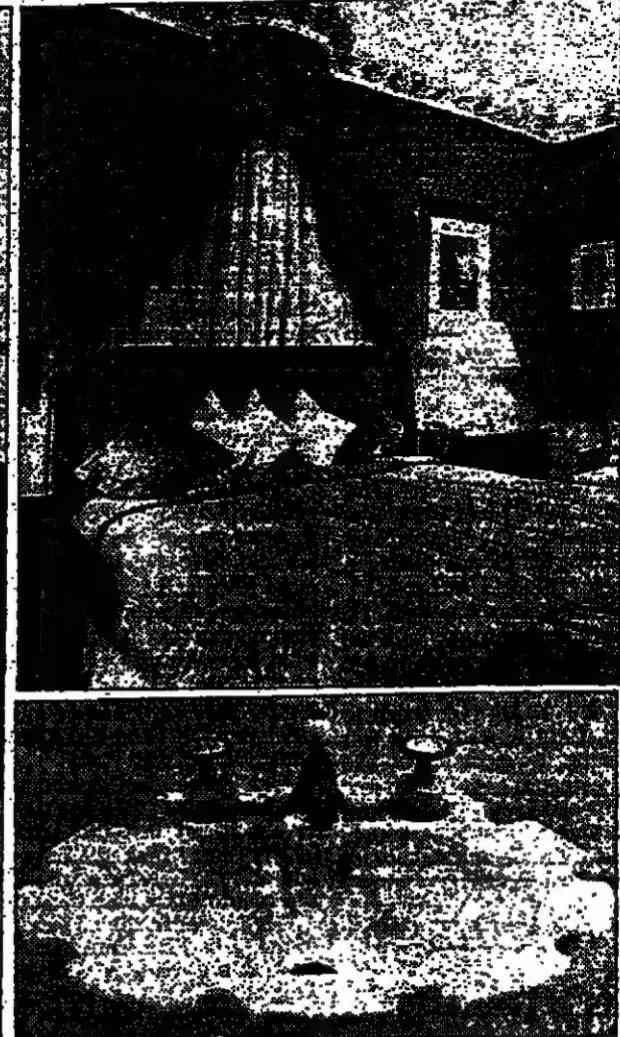
Most of the suites and bedrooms have been refurbished in English country house style with four-poster beds and chintz. Triple glazed windows can be opened to offer a choice of fresh air or silence. There are also some bedrooms furnished along clean 1930s lines which I find particularly attractive.

By the time the bill comes in the building will have swallowed 50km of piping, 20km of cornicing, 10,000 rolls of wallpaper, 50,000 sheets of gold leaf, 350 diamante bows to decorate the ballroom mirrors, and 249 of those baths.

When the bill comes in it will be for about £100 million, plus a penalty payment for the six-month over-run on the building contract.



Grandeur and glamour: the Duke of Edinburgh after unveiling a plaque at the newly refurbished Dorchester hotel in Park Lane, London. Top right, the bedrooms freshly painted and refitted and, below right, marble hand-basins remove the plumbing trials of 20 years.



## Defiant Lords face clash on broadcast bill

By JOHN LEWIS

IN A rare display of defiance, the Lords is to challenge the government over its refusal to force the new commercial television companies to include documentaries and education and social action programmes in their schedules.

Baroness David, the Labour peeress, with the support of crossbenchers, is putting down the new amendment to the broadcasting bill, due to be heard on Tuesday, which would write into the legislation a requirement that the new Channel 3 television companies must carry these distinct types of programmes.

Baroness David and many organisations are worried that with the introduction of a more competitive regime in commercial television, expensive documentaries, education and social action programmes will be the first to go.

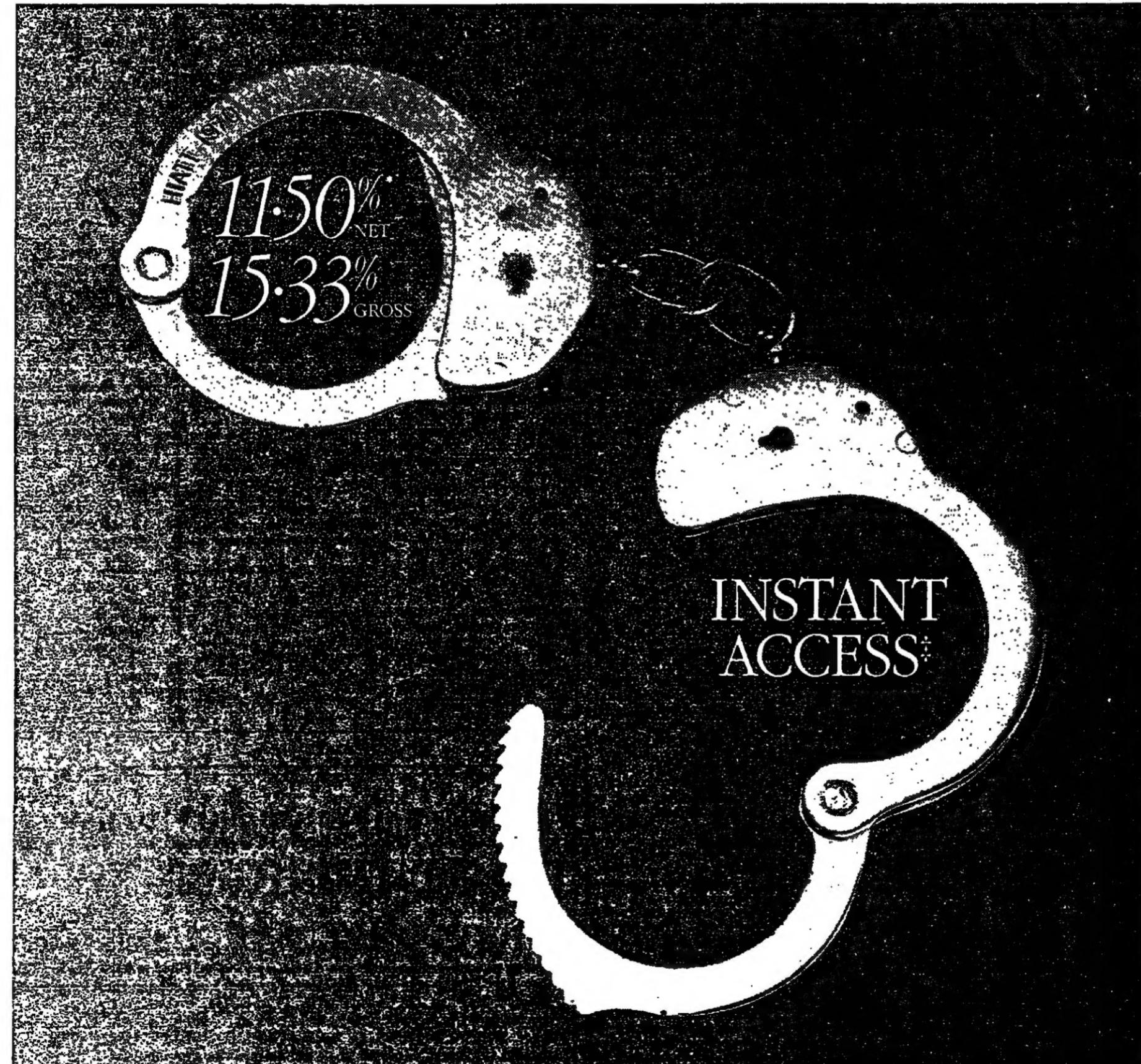
The new amendment will be almost identical to the one from the Lords struck from the bill in the Commons earlier this week.

Government business managers assumed that after this week's clear rejection by MPs, peers would follow normal practice and accept the change as a formality. Baroness David has decided otherwise. If her amendment is carried, it will return with the bill to the Commons again, putting the government not to reverse the Lords amendment.



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# Plaid Cymru pledges to continue poll tax battle

WELSH nationalists voted yesterday to continue their campaign against the poll tax and attacked Labour-controlled councils for sending in bailiffs to the homes of defaulters.

Delegates at Plaid Cymru's annual conference in Cardiff were told that Labour had betrayed the Welsh people. Laura McAllister, a member of the party's national executive, said that Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had aided and abetted the prime minister. "It is his councils, his councillors, that have done more to implement the imposition of the poll tax than if Margaret Thatcher had signed the court summonses herself," she said.

"It is a shameful act of betrayal from this party that pretends to speak for the people of Wales."

She said that 31 of the 38 MPs in Wales opposed the tax,

## MP faces summons for not paying

By RAY CLANCY

A LABOUR MP and his wife have been summonsed for not paying a £394 community charge, it was disclosed last night. Dave Nellist, MP for Coventry South East, and his wife, Jane, will appear before magistrates on Monday.

Mr Nellist said: "We shall determine whether the council has carried out every step of the process properly. If I lose then the council will try to get it out of my wages or send the bailiffs in. If both these moves fail then they will consider prison."

"Jane and I live on a skilled workers' wage not the inflated MPs salary, so the poll tax hits us like any ordinary family." He added that he would not be paying the poll tax in Wandsworth either where he lives when Parliament is in session.

An MP's basic salary is just under £27,000 but he or she can claim several staff allowances. Mr Nellist said he accepted just £20 a week and donated the rest to the Labour movement.

Two magistrates resigned yesterday over the poll tax. Lynn Harrington, a JP on the Bath and Wansdyke bench and a Labour councillor, said he did not want to punish those who had failed to pay.

In Stamford, Lincolnshire, Dianne Smith, a magistrate for 14 years, said she could not handle cases involving poll tax non-payers.

About 200 people demonstrated outside a magistrates' court in Bristol yesterday in protest at 2,500 summonses issued against the poll tax. Three people were arrested when scuffles broke out as protestors tried to get into the courtroom.

which had been rejected by 75 per cent of Welsh voters.

Delegates gave a standing ovation to the Scottish MP Dick Douglas who left the Labour party to join the Scottish National party over Labour's stand on the poll tax. He accused Mr Kinnock of duplicity in not backing those Scottish MPs in his party who refused to pay their poll tax.

"Voters in Scotland and Wales will not be let down in any way by looking to the SNP and Plaid Cymru for political leadership," Mr Douglas said. He forecast that widespread discontent at Labour's performance in opposing the tax would lead to heavy national gains at the next election.

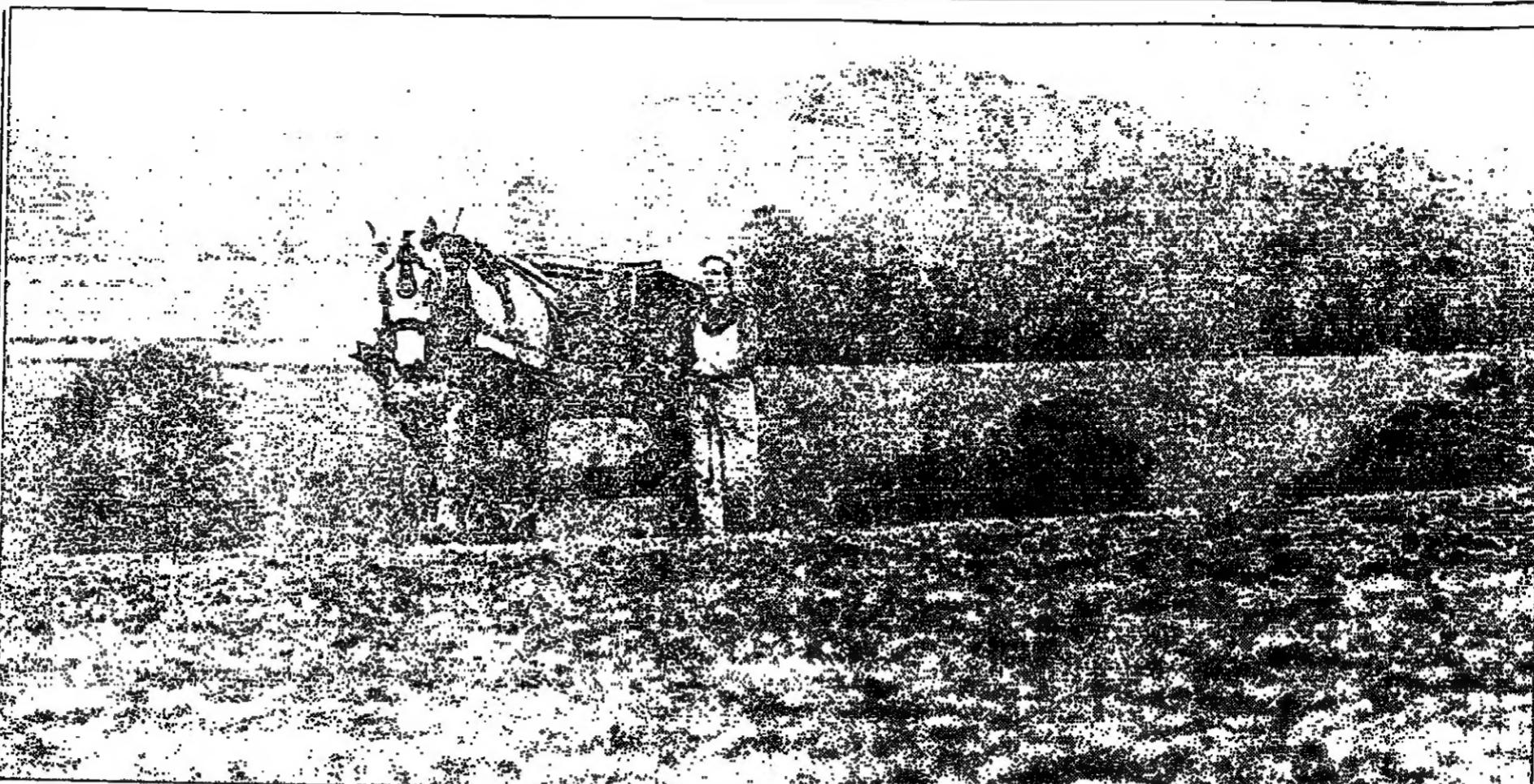
Geraint Davies, a Plaid Cymru councillor, said that Labour councillors in Rhondda Valley had deliberately selected him as a target by sending bailiffs to his house less than four hours after a liability order was obtained against him. "The Tories may have imposed the law but it was the Labour party who carried it to its evil extreme."

Dafydd Thomas, the Plaid Cymru president, called for a peaceful solution to the Gulf confrontation in a speech to the conference. The MP for Merionnydd Nant Conwy said that international sanctions against Iraq should be given longer to work.

The thoughts of everyone had to be with the hostage families and forces in the Gulf zone, many of whom were from Wales. Referring to the Argentine bombing of the Sir Galahad in which the Welsh Guards suffered the heaviest casualties of the Falklands war, Mr Thomas said: "Our duty is to work to ensure a peaceful resolution of this new crisis, so no more families in Wales or elsewhere will have to suffer grief and loss."

© Gwynedd county council is to discuss a notice of motion critical of an article in *The Times* on August 30 by Bernard Levin which it is suggested was "offensive towards the Welsh language".

Leading article, page 13



Bock to basics: Pamela Jones, a smallholder from Rhosgoch, Powys, learning to control a heavy horse, once a stalwart of British farming which may be making a comeback.

She is one of six students on a course in handling heavy horse at the Holme Lacy agricultural college in Hereford and Worcester, which is fully booked until February as interest in using them in small woodlands grows (Craig Seton writes).

Two of the other students on the most recent five-day course at Holme Lacy are former farmworkers who had been in charge of heavy horses many years ago and wanted to work with them again. One was

an archaeologist with an interest in early horsemanship, and two simply wanted to learn how to use the animals in forestry.

The students learn to handle heavy horses on the college's 650-acre estate. Ian Hutchison, the course co-ordinator, said using mechanised means in woodlands was too expensive, while a heavy

horse and tack would cost £3,000 and £25 a week to maintain.

He added: "A tractor can cost £20,000 and might be worn out after five years, but you could expect 20 years' work from a good horse." He said the course was the only one recognised by the joint national committee of heavy horse breeds societies.

## Audit office finds £170m error in benefit payments

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £170 million was wrongly paid to benefit claimants because of official errors last year, according to the National Audit Office. Some people received more money than they should have had, others got less.

The high level of errors means that John Bourn, the controller and auditor general, has decided to qualify the social security department's 1989-90 account on income support for the unemployed, and family credit.

The audit office's study of the accounts showed that nearly a quarter of the family credit cases and 14.4 per cent of the income support cases contained errors. The report, published yesterday, showed income support overpayments of almost £85 million and underpayments of £57 million. Another £20 million

had been overpaid for family credit and nearly £6 million underpaid.

Mr Bourn blamed the income support mistakes on local social security offices miscalculating entitlement and on the employment department's failure to stop income support payments to claimants no longer assessed as unemployed.

The family credit mistakes

were due to the department's failure to get enough evidence on the claimants' earnings, Mr Bourn said. "Other over- or underpayments were due to a variety of clerical mistakes by staff calculating awards."

The social security department said claimants who were underpaid would receive their full entitlement, although those given too much money would not be required to pay it back. The department would

examine the report and monitor the situation.

The Child Poverty Action Group said that an underpayment, however small, would have serious consequences for individual claimants, leaving them to cope on an income below the poverty line. "The new social security system was intended to be simpler to administer but this error level shows that the intrinsic problems of means-testing continue."

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said: "These unacceptable high error rates clearly expose how serious is the disarray in the government's social security system." The errors reflected in part in the "plummeting morale" in social security offices. "Staff are underprivileged, underpaid and overworked."

Having to move frequently affects education and health, and homeless families are more vulnerable to crime, the report says. "Belongings disappear, including children's toys. Hotels are not the safest of places because families are vulnerable to intruders. In one

of the nastier cases a six-year-old girl was raped."

It says that children living in the hotels become withdrawn and disruptive. Competition for school places is such that some children simply fail to attend.

Councils have shown flexibility and initiative in tackling homelessness, but more money is needed with a

## Few managers opt to retire at 65

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS who complain that the demographic time bomb of declining school leavers will strip them of skills to compete in world markets received a boost yesterday from a survey which shows that most company managers do not want to retire on their 65th birthday.

The survey, by Peat Marwick Management Consultants and the Institute of Personnel Management, says that instead of a sudden cut off from working life managers would like to move gradually towards retirement over the preceding ten years.

Peat Marwick also found, in its survey of 2,787 managers between the ages of 40 and 55, that only 14 per cent really wanted to retire between the ages of 61 and 65 compared to nearly 70 per cent who would like to retire between the ages of 51 and 60.

Four out of ten respondents wanted to work part time for their employer after retirement while 87 per cent wanted to continue some work-related activity.

Jacqui Lewis, the Peat Marwick human resources consultant, said: "A retirement decade could include a

balance of activities such as charity work, secondments, career placements with other organisations and coaching. Although there was a strong desire for career development among these mature managers, 45 per cent of respondents could not recall having had any personal development opportunities in the last five years.

"I believe this is an issue that companies should make the most of especially as the demographic dip takes effect through the 1990s."

The survey, released at the Institute of Personnel Management conference in Harrogate, also showed that 36 per cent of the managers felt sure their companies operated an age barrier for internal promotions. Women believed the barrier occurred at 40 while men thought it operated between 50 and 55.

The survey says many employers are failing to motivate older managers through flexible salary structures. An overwhelming 72 per cent said their organisation used pay ceilings for job grades and 27 per cent said they knew they had reached the top of their grade.

## Business struggling to bridge cultural divide

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Japanese understand each other only about 85 per cent of the time, Germans keep their working and family lives separate and the Dutch are almost American-like in their attitudes.

These are just some of the cultural differences with which managers now have to grapple in Europe and the Far East, the Institute of Personnel Management was told yesterday at its conference in Harrogate.

He said that because people looked racially similar it did not mean that there would not be cultural problems. Body language was not the same in all cultures and some gestures might have different, even obscene connotations in different countries.

Business people, he advised,

should speak slowly to a non-native speaker of English, should avoid big words and should not mistake a courteous answer for the truth. "In Japan there are 16 ways to avoid saying no." People should not be trusted just because they spoke English and their competence did not depend on their ability to speak English.

Dr Wrigglesworth said that some languages were inherently vague. "Japanese is such a vague language that they only fully understand each other about 85 per cent of the time."

He described EuroMan, a figure with a blend of national EC member characteristics,

willing to sacrifice their free time for the firm." Italians placed the importance of their family life over their job while Dutch managers did not consider work to be isolated from the rest of their lives. Instead they had an almost American concept of blending work and personal life.

• A call was made to the conference for the introduction of preventative medicine techniques at places of work.

There was a warning that

managerial levels of stress

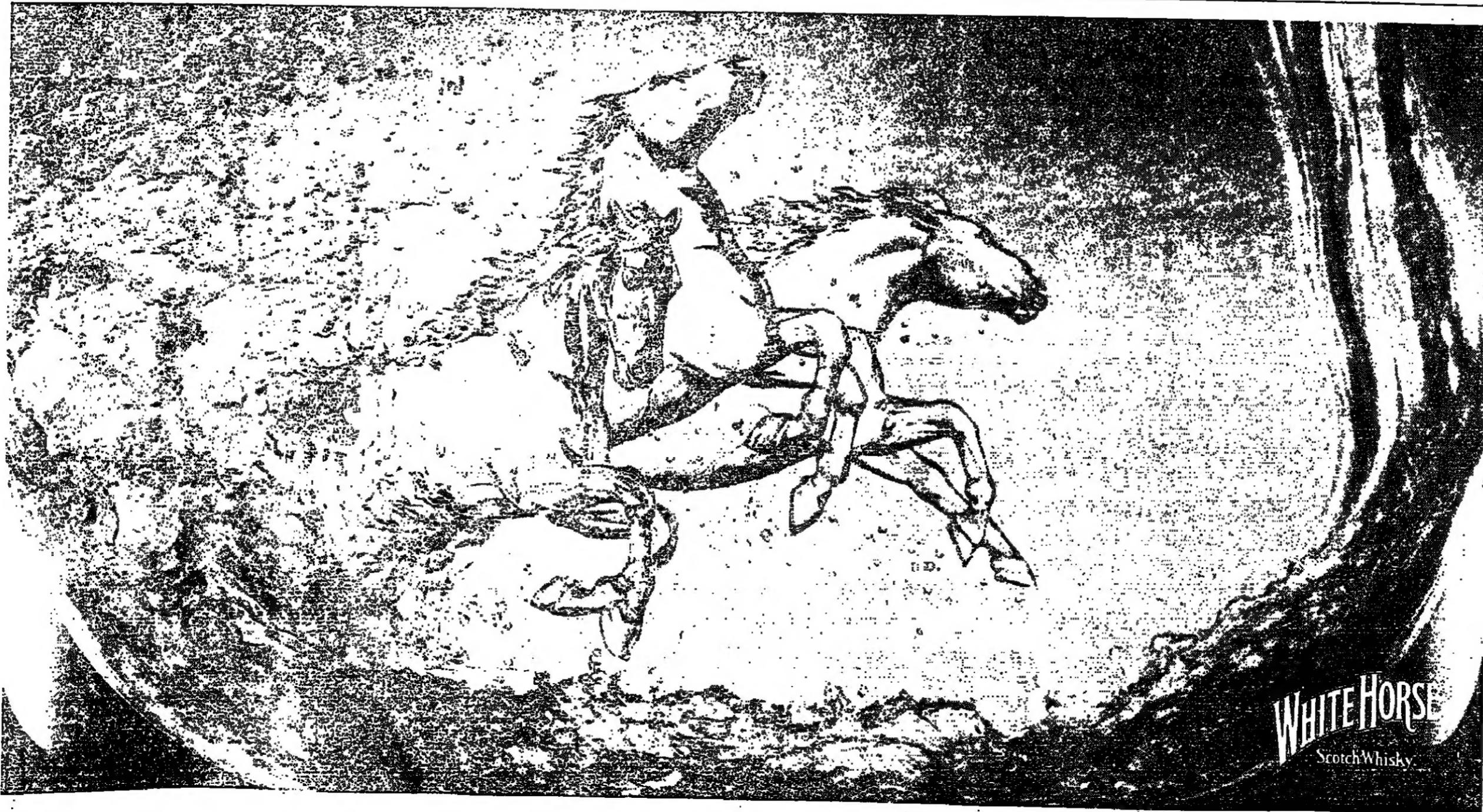
would be even higher in the 90s than the 80s as a result of

1992 European links change

in eastern Europe and the

emergence of Pacific rim

nations.



WHITE HORSE  
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# Ten years of boom that yielded London's hidden past

One hundred archaeologists are out of work after unearthing the capital's Roman links. John Young finds out what they had discovered

THE announcement yesterday that more than 100 archaeologists are to be made redundant by the Museum of London marks the end, at least for the time being, of an extraordinary decade of excavation in the capital.

The museum's board of governors said: "The acute downturn in property development in London has had severe effects on archaeology. This is because archaeological excavations are primarily funded by the site developer rather than central or local government."

"The result of this is that, when developers' funds cease due to economic recession, there is not the basic funding to continue archaeological advice and research. The museum is already severely constrained by government cash limits on its public programmes, curatorial and technical work."

"Consequently it does not have the financial resources to continue to pay archaeologists who are not being paid for by developers' or central funds."

The property boom that gathered pace in the early

1980s and during which developers have poured millions of pounds into the search for London's past has come almost to a halt. As a result, Max Hebditch, the museum's director, estimates that from £8 million in 1989-90 and £6 million in the current year, his archaeological budget will be less than £2 million in the next financial year.

Inevitably archaeologists feel bitter at the lack of government support and at their dependence on the ups and downs of the commercial property market. However, it is certain that no government would have been able to match the funding that made possible the amount of excavation, discovery and recording in the good years.

For a long time the opportunities presented by the post-war rebuilding of London were scarcely recognised. Some excavations took place on bombed sites after the second world war, but "during the 60s the amount spent was pathetically low", during the development of the now notorious



Hot spot: the Museum of London dig off Upper Thames Street that revealed the underfloor heating system for the Roman baths

ous Paternoster Square close to St Paul's, when the precursor of the environment department was responsible for archaeology, virtually no effort was made to uncover the site's hidden past.

It was the excavation of the Baynard's Castle site at Blackfriars in 1972 that sparked a new wave of interest. Three years later Mr Hebditch, until then director of the Guildhall Museum in

the City, established the department of urban archaeology with support from the City of London and the environment department.

Over the following years he was able to forge agreements with developers whereby it became almost standard practice for time and money to be made available for rescue archaeology.

Among the most important discoveries in the

City rates the uncovering of a series of quaysides dating from Roman times to the medieval times at Billingsgate and the unearthing of the Roman basilica at Leadenhall.

In 1983 the museum be-

came involved in excavation outside the City limits and took over the work of a number of independent units that had been under the aegis of the Greater London Coun-

cil. Important discoveries in-

funding from new public sector projects such as extensions to the Underground rail network.

Archaeology in London has fared better than in other parts of the country because of the huge development values of sites in the capital. Until recently, moreover, economic development was heavily concentrated in London and the South-East.

The archaeological needs of cities such as York might be relatively just as great, he pointed out, but on the other hand the York Archaeological Trust had the benefit of revenue from the highly successful Jarvik Viking Museum. The Museum of London was free to the public and did not generate any commercial revenues.

Will there come a time when the developers have finished tearing down and rebuilding London and there are no more sites left to excavate?

Mr Hebditch smiled. "There was a time when I thought every site would be redeveloped by the year 2000 and that archaeology would become an indoor sport," he said. But already post-war buildings were being torn down and replaced.

"If and when the new proposals for the area around St Paul's are given the go-ahead, that will really be something."

## 'No contempt' in Lockerbie story

By KERRY GILL

THE editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* and a journalist were cleared of contempt of court yesterday by John Mowat, the Sheriff Principal, who is presiding over the judicial enquiry into the 270 deaths caused by the Lockerbie air disaster in December 1988.

Trevor Grove, the newspaper's editor, and Toby Helm were ordered to appear before the enquiry in Dumfries after the Sheriff Principal ruled that there appeared to be a *prima facie* contempt after

### Airlines face bleak future

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE spectre of 1973 will loom over 200 leaders of the world's airlines tomorrow as they gather in Geneva for their annual general meeting.

All the ingredients for a repeat of the crash that saw many forced out of business, small operators swallowed by their big competitors, and fast declining passenger numbers are again casting a cloud over the members of the International Air Transport Association.

Profits being made by the 200 members had already been cut to the bone even before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and sent oil prices soaring. Now they will bear that in spite of carrying 726 million passengers and more than 12 million tons of air freight, the total profit the airlines managed to make last year was about £150 million – an average of well under £1 million for each airline.

This return means that any lingering hopes of a fall in air fares will be in vain. Before the Gulf confrontation high interest charges, spiralling labour costs, and losses caused by delays and increased security and navigation charges had hit the airlines badly. Prospects are worse with a 142 per cent increase in fuel prices, higher interest rates and changes in currency values.

The enquiry continues on Monday.

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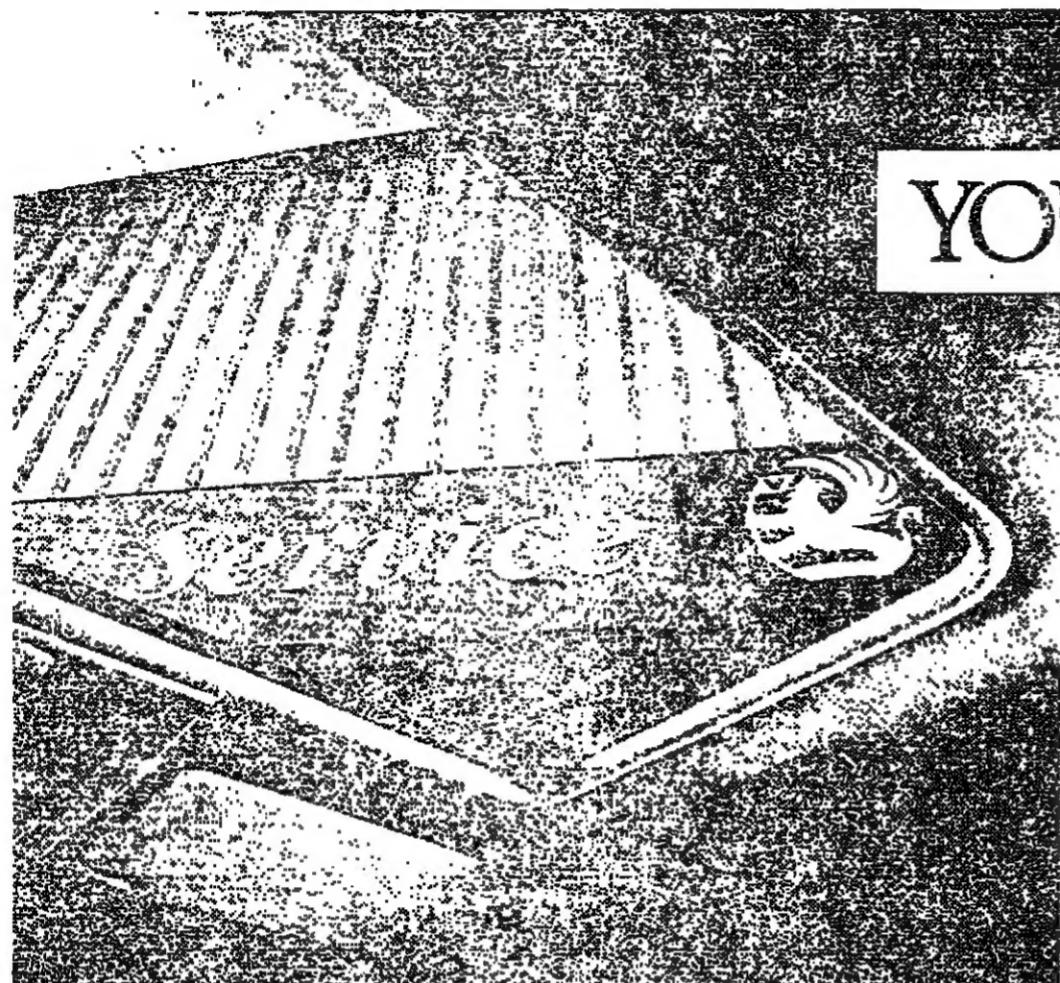
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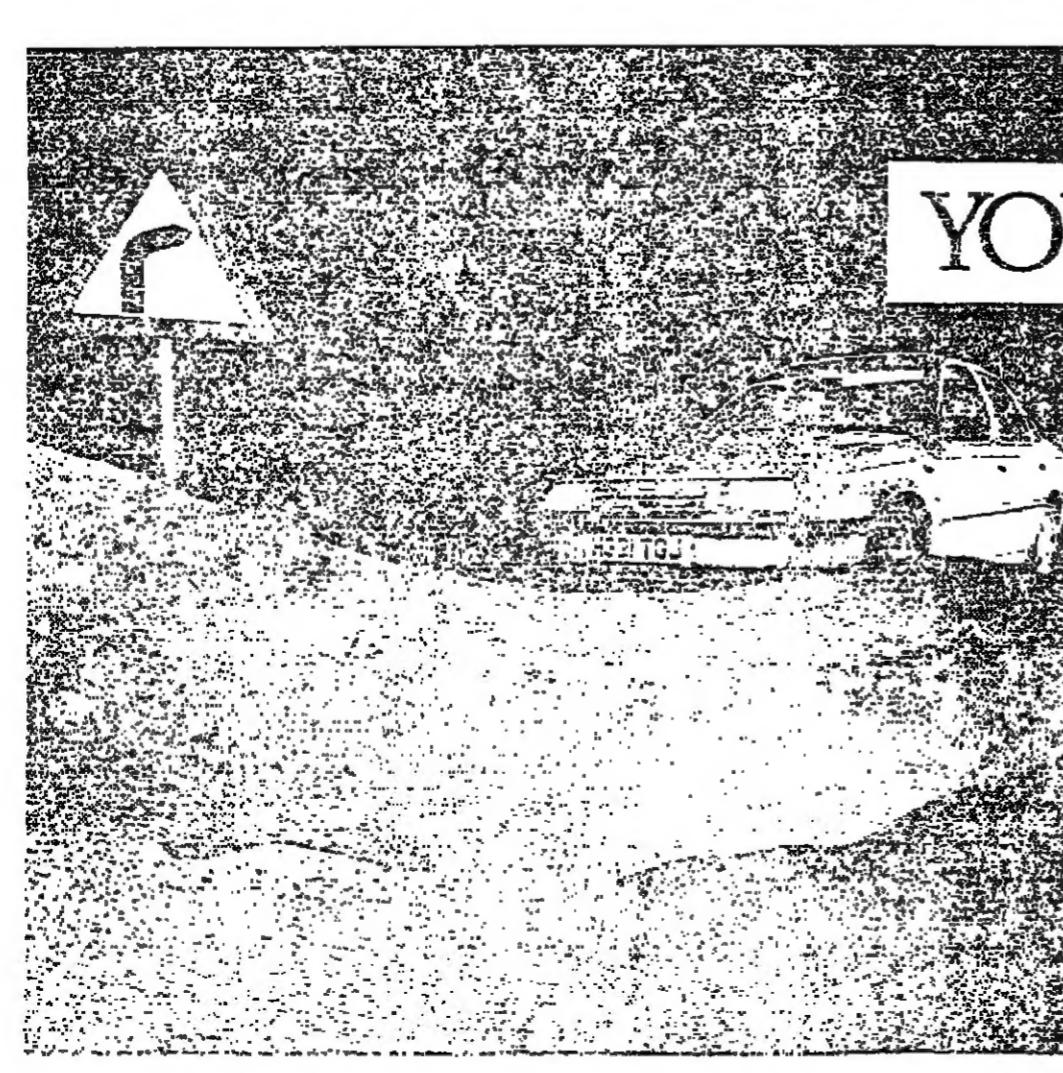
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*[Handwritten signature]*

# British tanks moving into position in Saudi desert

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DELEGATE EDITOR

AS BRITISH heavy tanks began moving to training positions in the Saudi Arabian desert yesterday, Iraq said that Britain and the United States were blocking the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

But William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, rejected suggestions that the two countries were moving towards a war and said they still wanted a peaceful solution.

Some reports implied that war must be close because the government had made arrangements for hospitals to treat injured servicemen. But Mr Waldegrave said that these were contingency arrangements.

The first of 120 British Challenger tanks started heading north from Dhahran where they were unloaded last weekend after being transported by sea. After a training period they are to take up forward positions with the 7th Armoured Brigade.

One of the brigade's two regiments is the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, best known for the "charge of the Light Brigade". This week it celebrated the 136th anniversary of the charge by 600 horsemen against Russian

## Nakasone pleads for hostages

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

YASUHIRO Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, is joining the band of elder statesmen making hostage mercy missions to Iraq. He plans to leave for Baghdad in early November to talk to President Saddam Hussein and request the release of all hostages being held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"I would like to go as soon as possible to see President Saddam Hussein and talk about the possibility of resolving the situation peacefully and of arranging for all the hostages of the world, not just the Japanese, to return to their home countries with me," Mr Nakasone said yesterday, clearly flattered that he remained probably Japan's best known politician abroad.

It is not the first time that such an idea has been mooted. The 310 Japanese in Iraq and Kuwait sent a plea in September to the present Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, to send Mr Nakasone as a special envoy to negotiate their release.

Although he will not be going as a government envoy, Mr Nakasone's decision to accept the mission now is likely to have been influenced by Edward Heath's success in winning freedom for some British captives earlier this week.

The invitation to Mr Nakasone to visit Baghdad was made by the Iraqi government and funnelled through Bunsei Sato, a former Japanese politician currently visiting Baghdad, who is close to Mr Nakasone. Mr Nakasone will travel to Iraq as an adviser to a delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party (LDP).

Mr Kaifu has not yet decided whether he will give Mr Nakasone a message to carry to the Iraqi leader, but he said yesterday that he welcomed the trip. "The government has already opened the road to political dialogue with Iraq," Mr Kaifu told reporters. "I think the invitation is a good thing."

Battle deadline, page 12



Gulf concern: Professor Angus McGrother believes the facilities of military hospitals could be exhausted within days in the event of conflict

## Britain 'may not cope' with casualties

By THOMSON PRENTICE AND JILL SHERMAN

BRITISH hospitals might be unable to cope with large numbers of seriously injured casualties from a conflict in the Gulf, a leading plastic surgeon said yesterday.

A system would have to be imposed to decide which of the wounded could be treated and which could not, said Angus McGrother, professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery at University College Hospital, London.

He said the capacity of military hospitals in Britain to handle casualties who were badly burned or injured by chemical weapons could be exhausted within a few days.

Health service hospitals would then take over, but they too would be quickly overstretched, he said.

Professor McGrother is an

international authority in his field. During the Iran-Iraq war he treated soldiers from both sides referred to him with severe burns and bomb blast injuries. His work is funded by the Phoenix Appeal charity.

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that contingency plans to handle wounded are being discussed with health authorities, mainly in the south of England. The ministry is building a network of medical facilities, including field hospitals in Saudi Arabia, hospital ships off the Saudi coast, and a military unit in Akrotiri in Cyprus.

Recent estimates in the United States have put the number of potential allied casualties in the Gulf as high as 30,000 dead or wounded.

Britain has sent a military force of 15,000 personnel.

A 400-bed field hospital has been set up at Jubayl in Saudi Arabia, with a medical staff of 500, including 20 surgeons and anaesthetists. An operating theatre is being installed in The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, which leaves Britain next week to become a floating hospital off the Saudi coast to which casualties could be transferred by helicopter.

Professor McGrother said it was almost certain that military and civilian hospitals in Britain would become involved.

"If there is a conflict, injuries from burns and chemical weapons are likely to be a big problem."

"A plane load of casualties would soak up the capacity of military hospitals within a

matter of hours. This was one of the lessons of the Falklands war.

At the very most, the health service would be able to treat only about 150 such casualties at one time. There are no more than 30 plastic surgery or burns units in the country, and they could handle only five patients each because of the intensive treatment required.

"We would get into a dilemma quickly where a system would be necessary to decide who to treat and who not to treat."

Several regional health authorities, including Wessex and East Anglian, have been approached by the ministry to assess whether their hospitals would be able to take in casualties. The ministry said yesterday that discussions

were also taking place on whether NHS doctors would be able to help military hospitals depleted of staff.

The Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, Hants has effectively closed as most of its staff are being sent to Saudi Arabia to set up a 400-bed field hospital.

Wessex region, which contains two military hospitals at Gosport, Hampshire and Swindon, Wiltshire, has 15 big acute hospitals, several of which may have to take casualties.

"Disaster plans are always in a state of readiness," a spokesman for the region said. "Everyone must hope that there is no conflict in the Gulf, but if NHS hospitals were to be called on, I am sure they would rise to the occasion and provide superlative care."

## Maids held slave by Arab families

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A CRUEL but unsung legacy of the Gulf conflict is the plight of hundreds of penniless Asian housemaids transplanted with their employers by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait sees no harm in any Arab country, giving its Arab sisterland a site or a position on the sea". His remark strengthened speculation that a compromise giving Iraq the strategic islands of Bubiyan and Warbah was being considered.

But Riyadh said he had been misinterpreted. Washington and London sought and received assurances that Saudi Arabia's policy remained unchanged. Prince Sultan and King Fahd emphasised that they continued to demand Iraq's unconditional withdrawal.

Margaret Thatcher is to hold talks with President Mitterrand of France today before the European Community summit in Rome, which she hopes will produce a strong statement showing solidarity by the Twelve against Iraq.

A French television station reported that President Saddam had said in a letter to M. Mitterrand that he was ready to discuss Middle East problems, including Kuwait. "The Iraqi president said he hoped Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev will spare no effort to find a solution to all the problems of the region, in particular the Palestinian problem," the private station *Le Cinq* said.

"Mr Kaifu told reporters, 'I think the invitation is a good thing'."

Battle deadline, page 12

## Baker to visit Saudis as US war rhetoric grows

From PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

AMID heightened martial rhetoric against Iraq from the American administration, James Baker, the secretary of state, is to visit Saudi Arabia next week. State Department sources said yesterday.

The aim of the trip, which his office would not officially confirm, was said to be first to focus international attention back to Kuwait and away from the Palestinian question and second to assess the strength of the alliance if military action against Iraq is required.

Planning for the trip began several days ago at the same time as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Colin Powell, called for reinforcements of up to 100,000 troops so that the US and its allies

should be able to mount an offensive to retake Kuwait. It coincides with tough speeches from the defence secretary Richard Cheney and William Webster, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, emphasising the risks of Iraq "lashing out" against Saudi Arabia or Israel and the dangers to future Middle East peace if Saddam Hussein is not removed from power.

Government sources said the twin-track policy of UN-backed sanctions and military build-up remained unchanged. They discounted reports that Mr Baker would ask King Fahd for permission to launch a first strike against Iraqi forces in Kuwait. Officials made clear that the Saudis were encouraging the US into war rather than vice versa. Mr Baker would be able to assess

the diplomatic state of the alliance and to give a message to Iraq and the American public that the military option remained strong.

Meanwhile, senior Iraqi sources said Washington's plan to send 100,000 reinforcements to Saudi Arabia will not affect Iraq's ability to defend Kuwait.

"By sending more troops it means that the Americans are preparing for war," one Iraqi official said. "It means that the American threat is still alive." Iraq expects them to attack at any moment and is prepared to repulse them.

There are already about 200,000 American combat troops based in northeastern

Saudi Arabia, outnumbered by an Iraqi force of about 400,000 in or near Kuwait.

In Baghdad, the father of a British student injured in a car crash on his way to being freed from Kuwait, will not be allowed to return to Britain, Iraqi officials said yesterday. Bruce Duncan, who yesterday was at his son Rory's bedside at a Baghdad hospital, came out of hiding in Kuwait when he learned of the accident.

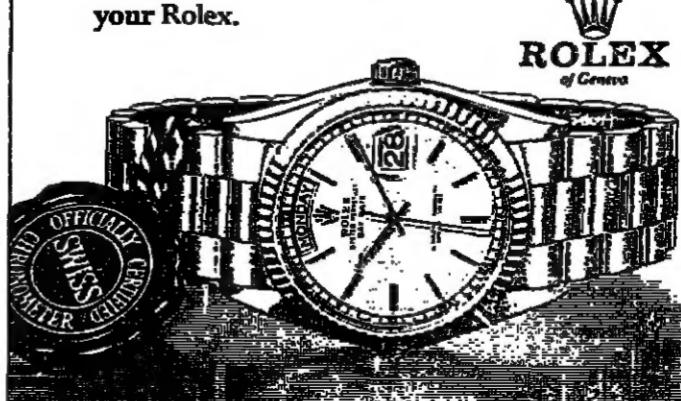
His other son, Alex, aged 21, an undergraduate at Balliol College, Oxford, was killed in the crash on Tuesday morning as he was being driven by Iraqi officials to join Edward Heath and 33 Britons who were allowed to go home.

Israelis have become markedly more suspicious of Arabs in Jerusalem because of this week's spate of revenge stabbings. The interior ministry said there had been "a sharp increase" in applications from Israeli citizens for gun licences for "self-defence". Certainly, any Arab working in an Israeli shop or garage is regarded with suspicion at the moment. "I don't turn my back any more" one garage owner said. "I know my Arab mechanics very well. But this suspicion is poisonous."

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## Israelis deny a move to partition

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

DESPITE official denials, the conviction is growing in Israel that, by sealing off the West Bank and Gaza to prevent spiralling violence, Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government is reintroducing the 'green line' and helping to create *de facto* partition between pre-1967 Israel and the occupied territories.

"There has been a change because of the Temple Mount killings and the subsequent violence," one diplomat said. "There is minimal contact now between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. Palestinians are clearly not going to be given self-government by Shamir, but they could end up living in a separate Israeli-controlled entity if this trend continues."

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said there was no renewal of the green line. "We decided to prevent the entry of residents of the territories into Israel for a few days," Mr Arens said. This would enable Israel to "review means of supervising Arab labourers entering Israel" while simultaneously enabling Palestinians to "consider the situation and conclude that continuing violent acts will only worsen the tragedy of the Palestinian population".

Military sources said the closure of the occupied territories could be rescinded by the middle of the coming week if calm was restored. Thousands of troops have been drafted in to reinforce the green line. But in West Bank towns the mood was defiant. "We can manage without the Jews," one young Arab said. "If they gave us our own state, we could build a Palestinian economy."

Other Palestinians said that Arabs and Jews would continue to need each other, and that their economic fates were linked. "We have the labour, the Israelis have the money," one Arab building worker said. In Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini, the leading Palestinian activist, said there could be no return to the "man and horse relationship" between Israelis and Palestinians. There is none the less concern among Palestinians that Israeli employers will replace the 120,000 Palestinians who normally commute to work in Israel with Soviet Jewish immigrants, and that Palestinian families will suffer greatly from the loss of income.

Israelis have become markedly more suspicious of Arabs in Jerusalem because of this week's spate of revenge stabbings. The interior ministry said there had been "a sharp increase" in applications from Israeli citizens for gun licences for "self-defence". Certainly, any Arab working in an Israeli shop or garage is regarded with suspicion at the moment. "I don't turn my back any more" one garage owner said. "I know my Arab mechanics very well. But this suspicion is poisonous."

## Moldavia declares emergency to avert war

From MARY DEDEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A SPECIAL session of parliament in Soviet Moldavia yesterday declared a state of emergency in three southern districts of the republic, in what it said was an attempt to prevent civil war.

The emergency, to last for two months in the first instance, provides for the dissolution of all local councils and direct rule by provisional committee from the republic's capital, Kishinev. All demonstrations and assemblies are banned, so the use of printing and photocopying facilities, entry and exit to the region are restricted.

The three southern districts, which are inhabited mainly by ethnic Turks, unilaterally declared themselves the independent Gagauz Republic in August and on Thursday started elections to its parliament. The same day, armed volunteers committed to stopping the elections set off from Kishinev in 85 buses for the

journey to the Gagauz regional centre, Komrat. According to the semi-official news agency, Interfax, quoting the Moldavian interior ministry, upwards of 20,000 volunteers had gathered on the border with the Gagauz region.

The recall of the volunteers was being discussed yesterday by the Moldavian parliament. Responsibility for enforcing the state of emergency is to rest with a regiment of interior ministry troops at present stationed in Kishinev, but they are fewer in number than the volunteers.

This also reported that 10 armoured personnel carriers had been dispatched to the town of Chemishia, near Komrat, where the volunteer detachments were gathering, but so far the situation was described as calm.

The Speaker of the Moldavian parliament, Aleksandru Mosham, made a television broadcast on Thursday night, appealing for "maximum re-

straint, calm and tolerance" to prevent clashes between volunteers and the Gagauz people. "There are militants on both sides," he was quoted as saying, "ready to cast us into the abyss of violence."

The conflict between the Moldavian leadership and the Gagauz region is one of the many ancient ethnic conflicts

Russian Federation, there are several non-Russian minorities indigenous to the region.

Often, though not in the case of the Gagauz in Moldavia, the area inhabited by the minority is designated as an "autonomous" republic, region or district, giving it a special (but not that special) status. Nagorno-Karabakh in the trans-Caucasus, the mountainous area populated mainly by Armenians, but administered by the republic of Azerbaijan which surrounds it, is the most notorious of these "autonomies", as they are called in Russia.

More typical of the overall

problem facing the Soviet

Union are the smaller ethnic minorities of the Russian

Federation which have no

other homeland. They include the Yakuts of eastern Siberia,

the Kalmyks near the Caspian

Sea, and the Tatars of the

Volga region. All these groups live in designated

"autonomies".

# No News is bad news for city on the brink of collapse

THE loudspeakers in Grand Central station played that old favourite *Autumn in New York* yesterday as commuters searched for the *Daily News*, the city's biggest-selling paper. For the first time since it was founded after the first world war, there were none. Across 42nd Street, in a northerly gale, pickets were circling the art deco building that is headquarters to the *News*.

After months of bitter brinkmanship, the unions had called an all-out "strike to the death" in the early hours and opened a fight to prevent the Chicago owners from putting out a version with non-union staff. They had been recruited and trained for months, ready for deployment at new production facilities in New Jersey and Brooklyn.

New Yorkers have been apprised of the struggle for months, if only because the unions have placed big advertising posters on

A sense of deep despair is challenging the long-held view that, come what may, New York is and always will be the world's greatest city, writes Charles Bremner

city buses proclaiming: "The *Daily News* is bad for its workers". Strikers yesterday burned delivery lorries in Brooklyn in an attempt to stop the "scab" workers. The Tribune group of Chicago is determined to break what it considers restrictive union practices and some officials predicted the death of the paper.

For ordinary New Yorkers the closure of the *News*, which until recently held the biggest weekday circulation of any US paper, was more bad news in a baleful month that has seen the city take a sense of gloom deeper than any, at least, since the near fiscal collapse of the mid-1970s.

Property values have taken a further dive. Much of the now-

Ironically, that unstable period is best remembered for one celebrated 1975 headline in the *Daily News*: "Ford to City: Drop Dead". It reported President Ford's refusal to help rescue the city from bankruptcy.

The new recession started hitting a year ago and crime and racial tension have been exploding for longer, but over the past couple of weeks several events have converged to make even the most blasé citizens reconsider the conventional view that, whatever happens, New York will always remain the world's greatest city.

Property values have taken a further dive. Much of the now-

year *now* middle-class is facing up to the idea that their flats, if bought in the late 1980s, may never again be worth more than a fraction of the mortgage. Analysts have begun predicting trouble for some New York-based banks, the largest in the US, because of their lending in the property boom. Radio stations have started airing commercials for pawn shops, now called "loan centres".

The most ominous blow of all was the resignation last week of Felix Rohatyn, the banker who led the Municipal Assistance Corporation, the agency which rescued the city from the 1970s troubles and helped it prosper in the 1980s. Mr Rohatyn said he wanted no part of the disaster which was now looming. The city, he said, "is facing a social, political and economic crisis far more serious than the fiscal crisis of the 1970s".

At stake is its whole future as

the financial and cultural heart of the United States. Unlike the 1970s, there was no longer any public consensus on the need for shared sacrifice, he said, in words that rang like thunder on Wall Street. "Today New York has become a city full of anger and violence in which ethnic groups are turned against other ethnic groups, races against other races, classes against other classes."

The city has witnessed fresh illustrations of the new racial breakdown over the past few days. In Brooklyn on Thursday night, thousands of Hispanics besieged a police station in protest against what they said was lenient police treatment of Jews in the district. In the subway, young black passengers attacked a group of white commuters who had gone to the aid of a woman as she was being mugged by a black youth. They punched Lisa Polk, the victim, and allowed the

men to escape. They explained that the good Samaritans were demonstrating racism.

The object of Mr Rohatyn's frustration is Mayor David Dinkins and the administration he inaugurated only last January. Elected on a promise to heal the racial divide, Mr Dinkins has appeared confused and ineffectual in the face of the conflict.

"Do Nothing Dave", as the newspapers have dubbed him, has astonished the city after he gave a hefty pay rise to teachers, and the next day announced the likely dismissal of 15,000 city workers. Yesterday, his team suffered the humiliation of asking the teachers' union leaders to come back to the table and re-negotiate. Mr Dinkins is now engaged in pay negotiations with unions for a majority of the city's 300,000 employees.

Mr Rohatyn and many experts are predicting disaster if he fails

to win big concessions in order to cover a \$1 billion (£500 million) budget deficit, but few expect him to prevail. "The big question these past few weeks has been: whether David Dinkins knows what he is doing," said *New York* magazine. "The consensus is that he doesn't."

Jimmy Breslin, the veteran commentator, said the mayor "does absolutely nothing but change his clothes". The troubles of self-important, recently glittering New York are now the source of much *schadenfreude* in "mainland" America. Comedians are deriving mileage from jokes such as Jay Leno's crack that the Statue of Liberty is being remodelled so the lady has both hands up. But some things do not change. The big news yesterday in the *New York Post* was Donald Trump's announcement that he did not plan to marry Marla Maples.

## Hungary jammed by petrol protest

Budapest — Hungary was thrown into confusion yesterday and faced the prospect of economic paralysis as thousands of taxi and lorry drivers blocked roads, public transport and border crossings in protest at the government's decision to double petrol prices (Ernest Beck writes).

Budapest and other cities were brought to a standstill. In the capital taxis blocked all bridges across the Danube as well as the main road to the airport and the international motorway link with Vienna.

Only a few cars were being allowed through at all crossings except on the frontier with the Soviet Union.

### Bomber guilty

Sydney — Timothy Anderson, aged 38, a former member of the Ananda Marga Indian sect, has been found guilty of masterminding a bomb attack at a Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Sydney 12 years ago which killed three people. The bomb was an attempt to assassinate the Indian prime minister, Moraji Desai, to force the Indian government to free the leader of the Ananda Marga sect from jail (Reuters).

### Chief charged

Panama City — Colonel Eduardo Herrera, the former chief of police, has been charged with plotting to overthrow the government of President Guillermo Endara. Colonel Herrera led the re-organization of Panama's military after the US invasion that overthrew the former strongman, Manuel Noriega. But President Endara retired him in August, and the government now says the colonel is linked to a group that opposes US intervention in Panama (AP).

### Pact broken

Nairobi — Fierce fighting erupted between the Rwandan army and rebels in the northeast of Rwanda less than 36 hours after a ceasefire went into effect. The Rwandan army violated the ceasefire and launched a big offensive against rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front in an attempt to push them further north. The ceasefire had been worked out by the Belgian prime minister, Wilfried Martens (AFP).

### Taiwan pays

Taipei — Taiwan has paid "sympathy money" to the widow of the Chinese-American writer Henry Liu, who was shot dead in his California home by paid Taiwanese agents in 1984. The vice foreign minister, Chen Chien-jen, said Taipei had agreed, but declined to confirm that the amount paid was \$1.5 million (Reuters).

### Train rams bus

Cairo — Twelve people were killed and 15 seriously injured when a train travelling at full speed collided with a bus at a railway crossing near the old Cairo airport. Most of the victims were relatives of Egyptian army officers who were travelling home from Cairo (AFP).

## British vision of EC future under scrutiny in Rome talks

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

MARGARET Thatcher sits down in Rome with fellow European leaders today to discuss the political union of the European Community: a concept anathema to Downing Street, and one that only a year ago was nowhere on the horizon.

But the two hours of talks are not about the immediate construction of a United States of Europe: even federalists such as Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, regard that as a long way off. Political union is really shorthand for three related issues: extending community competence to foreign policy and defence, streamlining decision-making and making the EC more accountable to voters.

All have been made more urgent by the upheavals in Eastern Europe, the gathering pace of economic integration and the confrontation in the Gulf. And all were brought together at the Dublin summit in April, when EC leaders realised that the proposed inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union

could not also handle such disparate topics. And so they set up a second, parallel, conference and appointed experts to look at what it should discuss and make preliminary recommendations. The commission did the same.

Their reports are now on the table, and community leaders will give their first reactions to them today. Some countries, such as France and Italy, have also floated proposals informally in briefings for journalists over the past month, with the clear aim of influencing the debate.

Britain, which did not want this debate in the first place, has not put forward any grand scheme, partly because the government does not really know what changes, if any, it wants in the Treaty of Rome, and partly because it does not want to preempt the discussions at the inter-governmental conference. Nevertheless, Britain is determined to have its views heard, and has therefore jotted down on a two-page summary the issues it believes most important.

The first is that the Western European Union should remain the principal co-ordinator of European defence, and that nothing should be done to undermine Nato. Similarly in foreign policy, Britain wants the present quasi-independent political co-operation procedures to continue with a strengthened secretariat, though with increasing links to the commission. To improve community efficiency, Britain proposes giving the European Court power to levy fines on countries failing to implement directives that have been adopted. And, to increase democratic accountability, it is ready to let the European parliament confirm appointments of the president and fellow members of the commission, as well as having a greater role in auditing EC institutions.

So far, by far the most comprehensive and cogent proposals have come from the commission. Published this week, the well-timed report combines caution and vision. It argues that any changes must take account of public opinion in the member countries and their different conceptions of pooled sovereignty. It recognises any sole commission right to make foreign policy, defence should best stay with the WEU for a while, and slaps down some of the more overreaching demands of the European parliament for co-decision.

The report holds up a vision of a more efficient and accountable community that goes much further than Britain's suggestions. It is the sweep of the vision that will both inspire the federalists and repel the British government, whose minimalist approach eschews all such blueprints. Mrs Thatcher will nevertheless be pressed today to spell out what Britain would propose instead. Rough notes on how to tidy up this or that bit of the Brussels bureaucracy are not enough.

He had expected to be imprisoned for up to five years. He was convicted of receiving and public-

## Top party man held in scandal

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

BERLIN police yesterday arrested Wolfgang Pohl, the vice-president of the beleaguered German communist party, and an associate of his, Wolfgang Langnau, amid a growing scandal involving party funds.

Gregor Gysi, the leader of the Party for Democratic Socialism, the successor to the East German communist party, announced at a press conference yesterday that he was prepared to resign.

A police investigation is under way as a result of the recent discovery that party officials suspiciously transferred DM107 million (£36.2 million) in party funds to several bank accounts in Oslo and Utrecht belonging to a Soviet firm. Subsequently several party members tried to withdraw the money.

Over 100 heavily armed policemen have raided the party's headquarters and searched the offices of Herr Gysi and Hans Modrow, the former prime minister, in an unsuccessful attempt to uncover evidence directly linking them to the scandal.

Earlier, Herr Pohl announced at a press conference called by the party that he would resign his post as vice-president. Herr Pohl, responsible for overseeing party funds, told reporters that he was trying to save German communists from financial ruin by initiating the transfer of funds.

Herr Gysi, who met members of the Soviet Communist party's central committee in Moscow on Thursday in an attempt to learn more about the Soviet firm allegedly involved, said he had contacted the Berlin state attorney's office to reveal what he knew about the transactions.

A party official from Halle, suspected of having master-minded the transfers, is believed to be in hiding in the Soviet Union, according to a party spokesman.

Herr Gysi told reporters that he was offering his resignation because "false information" was given to the media about the party's position in the affair. But he insisted that he himself was free of any personal guilt or involvement in the affair.

The party leadership said it would turn down his offer of resignation at a meeting today in Berlin, but Herr Gysi said he would seek a vote of confidence.

The affair has all but destroyed the party's credibility and its claim to have given up the ways of the discredited old ruling party of East Germany. It could also cost the party votes in the December general elections.



Taking a tumble: President Bush, under the eye of Vic Gold, a consultant, romps with his dogs before going on an afternoon jog.

## Poll rival has Helms running scared

FROM SUSAN ELLIOTT IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR the first time in his Senate career, the fire-and-brimstone conservative Jesse Helms is on the defensive in a campaign for re-election in North Carolina.

His rival, Harvey Gantt, a soft-spoken black liberal, has moved into the lead by 49 per cent to 41 per cent according to a local opinion poll taken during the federal budget emergency that has detained the Republican senator in Washington. No rival has ever come so close to defeating Mr Helms in a year during his three successful campaigns for a seat on Capitol Hill.

Senator Helms portrays Mr Gantt as an ultra-liberal at odds with the conservatism of the Bible belt. For his part, Mr Gantt, an architect who was the first black to

political races around the country have suffered from the so-called halo factor, or whites unwilling to admit their prejudice against voting for a black.

"They might not agree with everything Jesse Helms will do and they might tell you that his days are numbered," said Joan Neal, a church worker in a small town outside Charlotte. "But they will still go to the polls for him because they're just not quite ready for this kind of liberal." Mr Gantt opposes the death penalty and favours increasing taxes and cutting spending to bring down the federal budget deficit.

Most importantly, however, the race is a battle between the new South and the old South. Even Mr Gantt's staff admit the race may not be as close as polls indicate since black candidates in recent

a political vote in his life. Instead, he is suffering more from a growing feeling that 18 years is quite long enough for one man to stay in power. "He's 68. He's an old man," says Gloria Taylor, who runs a grocery in a mainly black neighbourhood of Charlotte.

Mr Gantt faces the tough task of appealing to Mr Helms's strongest constituency, the blue-collar textile mill employees and tobacco pickers in the eastern part of the state. He has won support among black church groups and school students with his easy-going manner. He drew whoops of approval at a school this week by saying he trusted North Carolina women to choose for themselves whether to have an abortion.

The Helms campaign is counting on the state's rural vote to win, as well as white support in a region that is 20 per cent black. The race is sure to be perilously close.

Saturday Review, page 10



Helms: behind in election ratings for the first time

## Bold Afrikaans newspaper fined

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE editor and publishers of South Africa's only liberal Afrikaans language newspaper were fined a total of 7,000 rands (£1,450) yesterday over an article it printed about the country's intelligence service.

For Max Du Preez, aged 37, editor of the Johannesburg-based weekly *Vrye Weekblad* (Independent Weekly), the sentence of a fine of 2,000 rands or four months' imprisonment came as a relief. His newspaper's publishers were fined 5,000 rands.

He had expected to be imprisoned for up to five years. He was convicted of receiving and public-

force units its offices were attacked with petrol bombs.

Meanwhile, an arrest warrant has been issued by a Johannesburg magistrate against Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the ANC. She failed to turn up in court on Thursday on charges relating to non-payment of unemployment insurance for workers in a fish and chips shop in which she has a financial interest.

She is due to face trial next February on kidnap and assault charges arising from the murder of Stompie Mokheti, aged 14, by her former bodyguards.

gesture of respect — a custom dying out among Phnom Penh officials who, after 11 years of Vietnamese occupation, have adopted the handshake.

But it is not all sweetness and light at the hotel. In the restaurant at night drunken Cambodian traders dance together on the floor, throw glasses about and fight over Vietnamese taxi girls. A sign at the entrance of the hotel gives a warning that guns and prostitutes are barred. Guns are checked in with security. The girls appear anyway. "When they dance the Cambodians, I turn my face away," said one waitress in the restaurant.

"It is not the custom of Cambodian girls to hold their bodies close to a man's," Cambodian girls would never go to a man's room, like these Vietnamese girls do."

The Cambodian staff are also outspoken about the guests. "The Thais are good tippers, but the Vietnamese steal the teapots," said a waiter. (Few Cambodians have a good word for Vietnamese, their ancestral foes.)

Jean-Marie Bertron, the guest services manager, who was previously concierge at the Crillon on the Place de la Concorde, said: "I came to Cambodia because I have a Cambodian girlfriend in Paris and I wanted to see whether the country was as charming as she is. Sometimes things go a little bit to excess, but we wanted to open the hotel facilities to ordinary Cambodians, unlike China, where locals are barred. In time things will be smoothed out."

The room boys and girls ask guests to help them with their English, and all the staff speak the language in an idiosyncratic way. "Have a nice day," the lift boy brightly tells a guest, sleepily making his way from the bar to his room, just before midnight.

## Horrors of war give Cambodian luxury a harsh edge

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE pretty cocktail waitresses at the luxurious Hotel Cambodiana at Karl Marx Quay on the Mekong river here are charming and beguilingly innocent, and they like to talk to guests.

But they do not chat about pop music, fashions, boyfriends and dates as their counterparts would be expected to do in most parts of the world. Instead, they earnestly steer the conversation towards issues of life and death, war, peace, bereavement, fear, horror and anxiety about the future. Like children who grew up in the Warsaw ghetto or Biafra, they seem more than they should. They want to share their experience.

The stories they tell guests are so outside the experience of most visitors, especially the few tourists who now come to Cambodia, that

government and an overseas Chinese who once lived in Cambodia, the structure in traditional Cambodian architectural style is partly complete and 100 rooms have opened, at a cost of £35-a-night a room. Occupancy hovers around 50 per cent.

The hotel, as the management admits



John Rae

## One over the eight at nine

At Christmas, a 14-year-old girl died after drinking a bottle of brandy during a party at a friend's house, unsupervised by adults. The tragedy was avoidable, but no law was broken.

In America, the legal drinking age is 21; in Britain it is five. That will surprise many people, who think it is illegal to drink under the age of 18. It is illegal for someone under 18 to buy or be sold alcohol, but from the age of five a child can lawfully possess or consume alcohol anywhere except on licensed premises.

Most people start drinking before they are 14. Do we approve or disapprove? The confusion is manifested in a variety of ways. The most visible are the "scandal of tipsy kiddies" headlines that greet every survey of young people's drinking behaviour. But nowhere in the reports is there any hint that we might be wrong to let them drink at all?

Apparently we want children to be free to consume alcohol from the age of five, but when they find it difficult to handle, we look around for a scapegoat. If they drink too much too soon, it must be someone else's fault for encouraging them. The popular scapegoat is alcohol advertising. By calling for a ban on alcohol advertising, the Masham report on young people and alcohol sidesteps the question of whether the legal drinking age should be raised. But if the children need to be protected from such advertising, are they mature enough to use the product advertised? Are we worried only by misuse of alcohol by young people, or is there an age below which we think they should not drink at all?

Those who argue for the status quo say a higher legal drinking age would be unenforceable, and that the matter is best left to parents' discretion. To prohibit alcohol until the mid or late teens would, they say, give it the attraction of forbidden fruit, encouraging over-indulgence when the legal age is reached. Far better, the argument runs, to bring up our children with a little wine and water over Sunday lunch so that they learn how to handle alcohol under parental supervision.

I used to find this argument convincing, but now I have doubts. This is not because alcohol consumption by under-18s is increasing, but because I think parents' willingness to exercise responsible discretion is decreasing. The idea that parents use the wine-and-water approach to teach children to drink sensibly is, I suspect, part of middle-class mythology.

An increase in the legal drinking age would be difficult to enforce — not least because we have been so inconsistent in our approach to the law prohibiting the purchase of alcohol by young people — but it would have definite advantages. As the Masham report pointed out, the law "can be an important

...and moreover

### MATTHEW PARRIS

It is good that this column bears no headline beyond the "and moreover" trademark. We columnists are an odd bunch and need a catchy corporate logo to unite us. But this essay does have a title: "I Sell My First Book".

It happened last Saturday lunchtime, at the lounge bar of the Midland Hotel, Derby.

The Midland has now been restored to its early-Victorian elegance and become a pleasant oasis amid the railway sidings. Nearly a century and a half has intervened since Victoria herself dined there, famously, on "Les coquilles de mouton" and "Tartelettes de confiture". The menu is still proudly displayed. In the carpeted hush, it is easy to forget the basis of such wealth, which is illustrated by a sign not a hundred yards from the hotel foyer: "British Rail Engineering Ltd., Bogie Manufacturers to the World."

The carpeted hush was interrupted by me, my interviewer, and his tape-recorder.

We made an engaging pair, Geoffrey Hammersley, of *The Derby Evening Telegraph*, and I. Geoff had lost his voice, and was rasping in a manner that suggested a bit-part on a pornographic phone-line. I, having almost forgotten our rendezvous, was wearing a scruffy T-shirt and jeans that have torn knees; not because George Michael's jeans do, but because I cannot sew. I had left my cashcard in London, and had with me £4.36 for the weekend.

Geoff was to interview me on the eve of publication of my first book. He bought drinks. I calculated that if I bought the next, that would leave £2.57. At first I tried whispering, too, to reassure him. The barmaid eyed us suspiciously when we whispered to her about pale ale and nuts. As I in my torn trousers and Geoff clutching his tape-recorder and copy of *Incakola*, tramped into the lounge, she seemed to contemplate summing help, then decided we were harmless.

The interview went well. The book is a light-hearted account of my escapades in Peru and formally evaporated as I recounted more adventures. I babbled away. Hammersley croaked, and the tape-recorder whirred. We were alone.

## December dateline for battle

Peter Stothard, US editor, reports on Bush's tougher policy as more American troops are sent to the Gulf



Time's message catches up with American paratroopers at an outpost near the border with Iraq

Thousands of American troops in Germany can give up their hopes of a quick return home. Instead of picking yellow ribbons off the oak trees of Arkansas, they will be collecting iron rations from a quartermaster in the Saudi desert.

The acceleration of the build-up in the Gulf has taken even the military by surprise. American troops in Germany may not be the fittest in the world, but as President Bush prepares to raise the level of forces in the Gulf to around 300,000, their last days abroad look increasingly likely to include their first days of real fighting.

Early next week the defence secretary, Richard Cheney, meets his senior military adviser, General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, to plan the details of the reinforcement, which could be of up to 100,000 men. Operation Desert Shield, already the fastest American build-up since Vietnam, is about to set new logistical records.

According to State Department sources, James Baker, the secretary of state, is planning a tour of the Gulf next week to ensure the maximum solidarity of the American-led alliance. If shots have to be fired, in the past two days, senior officials, including the CIA director, William Webster, have heightened their rhetoric against Iraq, suggesting that the removal of Saddam Hussein is now a clear American aim.

For almost three months American policy has run on the twin tracks of military preparedness and diplomatic initiative, but the White House has decided that diplomacy has led to a playing down of the military option. Saddam appears to believe that time is still on his side and that if he raises the cost of American action by reinforcing Kuwait and keeps trying to splinter the anti-Iraq alliance, he will prevail.

President Bush is determined that American military power in the region will at last match the diplomatic effort. The principal aim of sending further troops is to show that America retains the option of winning back Kuwait by force. The second aim is to fill military gaps exposed by the first weeks in the desert and to increase the armoured strength of the US

army. A third is to extend the delay before full military readiness is clearly achieved, so allowing the United Nations its best chance either to bring a peaceful settlement or to give further support for war.

There has been no official change of policy — the American engine is still on its twin tracks — but the sounds of war are louder than they have been since the middle of August.

A date around the end of the first week in December is now seen as the new earliest "working target" for an assault. By then the American forces should be sufficient to fight a land battle for Kuwait at a minimum level — albeit still substantial — of casualties.

pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina in June.

There was concern earlier this week that Saudi Arabia might be softening its position. But officials now believe that it too must be

softening its position. Last week's "compromise" suggestions by the Saudi defence minister are interpreted predominantly as a diplomatic voice directed towards the Arab world.

The State Department cannot rule out the possibility of a significant split in opinion within the Saudi royal family. But the Saudi embassy in Washington has been urging that only principled adherence to the commitment to restore the government and terri-

Nikolai Tolstoy accuses Cowgill of distortion over the forcible return of the Cossacks

## Damned by Macmillan's own diary

Daniel Johnson's article "Macmillan: a vindication that came too late" (The Times, October 19) claims that publication of the Cowgill enquiry into the circumstances of the repatriation of Cossacks and Yugoslav citizens from Austria in 1945 proves irrefutably that my charges against the former prime minister were from the outset groundless. The case I presented, he alleges, was based solely on malice, and I should apologise accordingly. I am certainly prepared to apologise as far as would be appropriate were I to be persuaded that the matter indeed stands as represented by Mr Johnson. However, I do not see that this is in any way the case, and will briefly explain why.

My principal charge against Macmillan is readily set out. Among the Cossacks repatriated by force or lies were several thousand Russian émigré soldiers and refugees who had been living in Western Europe since the revolution of 1917. The Soviets were desperate to lay their hands on the émigrés, but Allied policy rigorously prohibited the repatriation of these people against their will. Though Macmillan was informed of their presence (though not of their precise numbers), he provided General Keightley, the British commander on the spot, with a "verbal directive" to deliver all Cossacks without discrimination to the Soviets.

Because the directive was so clearly in violation of Allied policy, Keightley thereafter consistently concealed from higher command both the presence of the émigrés and the fact that they were being handed over.

What is the evidence for this? Clearly, I can do no more here than indicate a few of the premises. Up to the eve of Macmillan's visit to 5th Corps on May 13, 1945, when he urged Keightley to return the Cossacks, the Americans was the "verbal directive" from Macmillan to Corps

dishonourable and inhumane actions out of sadism or bloody-mindedness? Or did Macmillan's "advice" adduce sufficient political considerations to persuade an able but intellectually limited commander to undertake actions for King Fahd he would normally contemplate? The only reason provided by General Keightley at the time for sending the Cossacks to the Soviets rather than to the Americans was the "verbal directive" from Macmillan to Corps

For reasons of space it is impossible to do more than indicate the direct evidence for Macmillan's complicity, while reminding readers of his extraordinary evasiveness on the subject, both at the time and later.

Though the "advice" or "verbal directive" to hand over all the Cossacks was only recorded decision made during his conference with Keightley, Macmillan appears to have avoided mentioning it in his report to the Foreign Office two days later. After 1974 he repeatedly declined either to see me, or to avail himself of repeated opportunities to correct my writings before publication. Others, including his son Maurice, encountered similar obduracy. Yet if his involvement was as marginal or non-existent as Mr Johnson claims, would he not have said as much, publicly or privately?

What is one to make of Macmillan's private admissions to his

biographer, Alistair Horne, when they are isolated from the surrounding passages of comment? "I may well have said 'we'd better send them all back'... Quite possibly we did send back the White Russians, by mistake..." Save for the "by mistake", is this not in essence the major part of what I allege?

I conclude with a passage taken from page 63 of the Cowgill enquiry, which conveniently illustrates both Macmillan's equivocal behaviour in 1945 and what I regard as the flawed arguments of his defenders today. Much of the enquiry's defence of Macmillan is based on his supposed openness at the time about his treatment of the Cossacks. Yet he was not candid. Only by inserting a sentence from Macmillan's private diary into a public document has the report managed to make this case. Let me explain.

Five days after his visit to Keightley, Macmillan reported to the War Secretary that there was "in Austria one British Corps... charged with... dealing with the White Russians and Cossacks, together with their wives and families, serving these German forces". Although Macmillan had decided (with Keightley) that they should all be handed over to the Soviets, he omits mention of the fact — which seems a little strange, if all was in accordance with government policy, and given the government's need to know how

these grave problems were being resolved.

One might think this piece of evidence an obstacle to the Cowgill report's argument in support of Macmillan's openness with his colleagues and superiors in everything to do with the bad-tempered. But what do we find? After the words "these German forces", the report adds the sentence "We have decided to hand them over". There follows a vigorously argued paragraph claiming that this is strong evidence of Macmillan's candour towards his colleagues.

But the sentence "We have decided to hand them over" is nowhere to be found in the original document, and has been taken from Macmillan's private diary entry for May 13. Regrettably, this is not the sole occasion where the enquiry has overstated its case on the basis of arguments that cannot be sustained by the evidence.

Mr Johnson may well be satisfied with this approach to historiography, but I fear few professional historians will share his equanimity. I certainly do not feel inclined to do so, nor do I intend to follow the implications of his or Cowgill's contention, which implicitly seems to attribute responsibility for the monstrous crime of 1945 to the wholly guiltless figures of Churchill, Alexander, McCrea, Mark Clark, and other honourable and chivalrous statesmen and soldiers.

prestige advertising sites in the Soviet Union. The Moscow underground sites are magnificient.

Quite so will the advertising not ruin it? "The sites have been chosen with advice from Russian architects," says Webster. "They are not meant to disturb the main architectural features." One can wait until they start on Red Square.

• Until Irish presidential candidate Brian Lenihan was accused of being economical with the truth, the highlight of a lacklustre election campaign had been the speculation about his health after a successful liver transplant last year. One Dublin editor demanded publication of Lenihan's full medical report. Lenihan's official spokesman agreed, provided the editor's medical records were also opened to public view. The outcome: silence.

So bad for the pride

Opera lovers at the Coliseum last night for Busoni's *Dr Faust* were vividly reminded of the English National Opera's cash crisis. During the performance a spotlight was trained on the giant plaster lions above the stage, and even those without opera glasses could see they were caked in dust.

Peter Jones, managing director of the ENO, looks forward to the time when he can afford to have the lions professionally dusted. "Their poor golden heads are now grey," he says, "but cleaning is an expensive process, involving the erection of lots of scaffolding. At night I dream of golden lions with cash pouring out of them."



### DIARY

and on the other William Cash, a vehement opponent of a federal Europe. A Tory insider says: "It's the eccentrics versus the fanatics. They won't be able to agree on a thing." A precursor, perhaps, of the intergovernmental conference a month later, which will pit Mrs Thatcher against the rest.

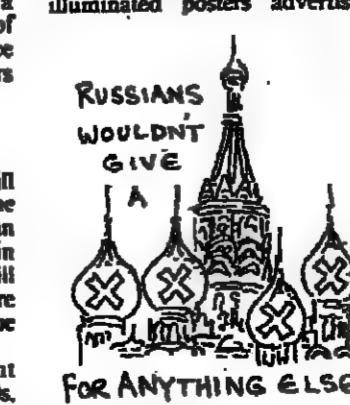
Cash and harry

In an attempt to please disparate elements in the Tory party, Sir Geoffrey Howe may have raised hackles all round with his choice of MPs to represent the party at a pan-European parliamentary conference in Rome next month on monetary union.

Sir Geoffrey, in consultation with the Tory whips office, agonised so long that the Italian authorities demanded a final list. In the event, the two most extreme views in the Tory benches will be represented. On one side Hugh Dykes and Robert Hicks, regarded as Euro-fanatics, were harmles.

some of the best-known icons of western consumerism.

"We expect to offer roughly 130 square meters of advertising space per station," says Derek Webster, a spokesman for England's Aipage, the Italian media company that has been awarded the contract. "It's a massive breakthrough. There are precious few



of Kuwait is acceptable. Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, has taken an increasingly hawkish position. He said yesterday he was "not optimistic" about the chances of a peaceful outcome.

Some observers believe that American commitments to Saudi Arabia, given in return for the original permission to base US forces on Saudi soil, include the downfall of Saddam Hussein and the destruction of his chemical and nuclear forces.

Any American attack is still likely to begin with the kind of air assault described last month by the then air force chief, Mike Dugan. His loose tongue about attacks on Saddam and his mistress may have brought his dismissal, but his thinking is still the centrepiece of American strategy.

Civilian casualties need not, if it is said, be as extensive as Dugan suggested. But America still hopes that if the Iraqi air force can be destroyed on the ground and the Iraqi officer class can be convinced of allied air superiority, a street-by-street recapture of Kuwait will be made unnecessary by an anti-Saddam coup.

Yet the Pentagon is determined that the whereabouts for an efficient storming of Kuwait will be ready on the Saudi border and in the regional air and naval forces. It also wants more artillery to deal with the recent improvements in Iraq's air and land defences in Kuwait. "Saddam must know that he cannot frighten us into a policy that rules out a land attack," said a Pentagon official.

The Bush administration has backed its argument for greater forces with intensifying rhetoric about the "rape of Kuwait" and, in particular, the treatment of American hostages. The safe-guarding of American lives in the human shield is still the most likely cause belt, officials believe.

But the danger of Iraq lashing out from its corner is still occupying minds in the administration. Mr Cheney said on Thursday that Israel might be a target in such circumstances. America is anxious to have sufficient forces to deter and counter such an assault, which, although almost certainly suicidal for Iraq, might leave the region a political wreck for decades to come.

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## UNLASHED FROM THE MAST

The song of the Sirens is now enveloping the ship of Mrs Thatcher's cabinet and she appears to have run out of rope and of beeswax. For the past few weeks, she and her colleagues have watched recession loom over the horizon, abandoned the faith and grabbed at the dusty old nostrums about wage restraint that Whitehall keeps in reserve for panicky ministers. Now the Trades Union Congress has picked up the refrain. If ministers want exemplary wage restraint, the TUC, according to yesterday's *Times*, will offer it, provided ministers offer employment protection in return.

After more than a decade of estrangement, the TUC's old corporatist yearning to cohabit with government remains overpowering. From the moment John Major and the employment secretary, Michael Howard, began reciting Lord Callaghan's 1979 pay-restraint speeches last summer, the TUC could no longer restrain itself. Next week it will put forward a possible deal to the National Economic Development Council, itself a relic of the old days. Faced with predictions that the recession could cost 500,000 jobs, the TUC is ready to offer "responsibility" on wages following entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, if the government will respond. Mentioned are infrastructure support, investment in job creation and even a "Europe-wide system of collective bargaining". The TUC spots a weakening of the cabinet's non-interventionist ideology. At least, it says, let us talk.

Anybody capable of recalling the state of the British economy in the 1970s, especially Edward Heath's incomes policy of 1972 and Labour's abortive social contract, will greet this with a hollow laugh. While Mr Heath achieved a measure of wage restraint through statutory fiat, imposed by civil servants, Labour's social contract with the unions soon collapsed into the winter of discontent. The TUC could not deliver. Even where individual trade unions ignored their duty to their members and promised restraint, their members showed them the door. Workers do not join unions because they want them to implement government macroeconomic policy, let alone clean up when policy fails.

## LIGHT, LIBERTY AND LEARNING

The chaos that has descended upon universities with the collapse of their new financing system is an accident that has been waiting to happen since the heady and heedless days of expansion of the 1960s. Blame for the immediate shambles can be laid equally at the doors of the universities and their new funding council, but the roots lie in unrealistic aspirations and weak management over a quarter of a century. The failed "bidding" exercise has merely exposed a truth that has long been evident but seldom admitted: that Britain cannot afford to match its overseas competitors on participation in higher education if all universities are centrally financed to the standard of an Oxford or Cambridge.

Conflicting pressures have been building up in the universities for some time. There is an inevitable tension between the desire to expand access to higher education and the obligation, keenly and properly felt in universities, to preserve academic standards. The consensus needed to strike a balance between the two objectives has been found in the polytechnic sector — now much beloved of ministers — but has been spectacularly absent from the Universities Funding Council (UFC) and from its dealings with its constituents.

The universities showed where their instincts lay in responding to the shortages of the early 1980s by hauling up the drawbridge and restricting further entry. Different times and higher fees have since encouraged them to take the opposite approach, but old attitudes are never far beneath the surface, especially where the limits of existing plant and staffing are in sight.

With hindsight, a system that required so famously cautious a group as the vice chancellors to entrust the whole of the next four years' grant to an untried bidding procedure was doomed to failure. Pricing courses too low in an attempt to undercut rivals could have caused serious and lasting damage, so sticking to the UFC's guide price

## A DRAGON DORMANT

The treatment of Wales is a useful test of the prime minister's attitude towards "subsidiarity", the principle that nothing should be decided by a higher instance which may be better regulated by a lower one. Within the United Kingdom, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are good cases in point. Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, is this week demanding at its conference in Cardiff that the Principality, like such counterparts as the Bavarian Free State, deserves greater autonomy. The demand is neither lunatic nor "fringe". It deserves serious consideration.

The fate of the Welsh has been linked to that of England ever since Edward I built his magnificent castles from Harlech to Flint. But if Welsh nationalism sometimes has a ridiculous side, it still represents a real feeling of regional identity rooted in a common culture, geography and history, and quite distinct from that of England. While this identity may seem to the English — and to Whitehall — less detached than that of Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Welsh secretary, David Hunt, would be foolish to ignore it. Wales has voices. Mr Hunt's party may find itself submerged by a hostile flood from beyond Offa's Dike, a flood which has already swept the impresario of Islwyn to the brink of power.

Europe has long been the battleground of regional nationalisms, from Basques to Flemings, from Corsicans to Serbians, from Languedoc to Schleswig-Holstein. Such nationalism often displays an artificiality which may excite the ridicule of distant majorities. As the anthropologist, Julian Pitt-Rivers, has suggested, local "notables" whose role as intermediaries between the centre and the periphery is threatened by modern

unions are about bargaining the pay and security for those who pay them to do so.

Even more suspicious than the evidence of revived "responsibility" on the part of the unions is the irresponsibility of ministers. Leading Tories under the last Labour government, notably Sir Geoffrey Howe, were vocal in condemning ministers who told private managers how to run their businesses. They said that government should confine itself to controlling inflation and reforming the supply side of the economy. Passing the buck for failing to do this was not acceptable.

Passing the buck today, after 11 years in office, is even less so. Messrs Major and Howard seem to have forgotten all they were taught in the Tory academies of early Thatcherism. Their speeches on wage restraint are unvarnished interference, mercifully not yet backed by statute, in managerial discretion. So far, the unions and managers have turned a deaf ear. They know that if they demand or receive too much, they will lose profit or lose work. They do not need politicians on state salaries and indexed pensions to tell them so.

Now they find not just ministers but also the TUC on their backs, demanding they ignore the rules of the market and set their sights on "coming in below" some global norm, target or going rate. And the more they turn a deaf ear, the more inclined government and TUC will be to collude with each other to add enforcement to their exhortations. Here lies the merry road to chaos, which the British have so often trodden before.

The TUC's succumbing to nostalgia is perhaps understandable: it has had nothing to do for over a decade. For ministers there is less excuse. They should concentrate on setting their own sector in order. Average private sector earnings between April 1988 and April 1990 rose by 21 per cent; in central government, pay conceded by Mr Major, Mr Howard and others, rose by 24 per cent. Mrs Thatcher should ban ministerial talk of private sector wage restraint until the members of her cabinet have removed the beams from their own eyes.

## No-fault insurance

From the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, I was pleased to see that the Law Society's conference (report, October 22) has been considering no-fault schemes for the victims of medical mishaps. Such schemes are of considerable interest to a much wider group of professions, particularly those operating in the construction industry. The need to prove fault before compensation can be awarded can result in much delay and injustice, as was amply demonstrated in the recent Abbeystead explosion case.

It took four years from the explosion at Abbeystead which killed and injured a number of people before a final settlement was reached in 1988 on appeal. During that process the trial judge divided the responsibility between the engineering consultants who had to which they have been accustomed.

The unavoidable conclusion is that all universities can no longer be regarded as equal in teaching and research, and superior to all polytechnics. The binary line that has divided the sectors cannot last, but its demise must lead to more selectivity, not less. There is at least as much difference between the top research universities and their lesser brethren as between the leading polytechnics and the average university. Israel's definition of a university as a place of light, liberty and learning is not inconsistent with an institution that concentrates on teaching, in the manner of many of the American state universities, rather than hanging on to a research status that is never far beneath the surface, especially where the limits of existing plant and staffing are in sight.

To ascribe such long-term objectives to the UFC in taking the action it did would be too generous. The council still appears to have little idea of how it will approach the task of medium-term planning. Yet if the eventual result of this week's debacle is to hasten a reform of university policy in Britain, the million sheets of paper that reportedly went into the bidding exercise will not have been wasted.

## Tramping tourists

From Mr Stuart Sexton

Sir, The Diary (October 20) suggests we might have to take off our shoes to save the excessive wear of millions of feet over the floors of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Visions of thousands looking for their left shoe afterwards!

In the palaces around Leningrad the tourist is required to slip on heavy-duty, elasticated cloth overshoes before trudging over the marble floors. It works very well there. It could work here in England. It certainly saves the floors.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART SEXTON (Director),  
Independent Primary and Secondary Education Trust,  
Wansingham Park School,  
Wansingham, Norfolk.

October 23.

## Hindley release

From the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Sir, It may console Bernard Levin (October 15) to know that each time there is an outbreak of righteousness against Lord Longford and Myra Hindley I have used the opportunity to remind my congregation about the Christian claim that repentance and amendment of life are possible, even for the likes of Miss Hindley.

I do not claim to have the same level of moral courage as Lord Longford, since the tabloid custodians of theology and ethics are not even remotely interested in what I say, but I would suggest that I am not alone and that if Mr Levin were to conduct some kind of survey he might find that many thousands of ordinary, uninteresting parish priests have used the

same opportunity to say exactly the same thing.

It may be that Miss Hindley will have to spend the rest of her life in custody, not least for her own safety and the sanity of the families she so brutally destroyed, but I am quite prepared to accept that she is no longer the monster she was when she committed her terrible deeds.

Miss Hindley's significance lies not only in the horror of the crimes she committed, but also in the fact that she has touched a raw nerve, exposing the beast that lies within all of us. That is why she is so frightening, and that is why society is unable to contemplate her release.

Yours etc.,

MICHAEL H. G. MAYER.

The Rectory,  
Glanmire,  
Bishop's Park Road, SW6.

Co. Cork, Ireland.

October 15.

Pregnant superstars

From the Deputy Director-General of the CBI

Sir, Despite its beguiling headline, "Europe's pregnant superstars", your article in "Life and Times" (October 10) gave a disappointing account of the background to the EC draft directive on the protection of pregnant women at work. UK employers are committed to ensuring the highest practicable standards of health and safety at the workplace, including the conditions of work of pregnant women. But it is EC employers, not just those in the UK, who have expressed a measure of surprise and concern at Mrs Papandrea's latest brainwave.

They should have greater self-government, with a measure of ministerial accountability to a locally elected assembly in Cardiff. It would be hypocrisy for Britain to protest about the threat of European federalism in Rome this weekend, yet ignore the demand for greater subsidiary sovereignty from the component nations of the United Kingdom. Nationalism is never dead. It is merely dormant, ready to rise up when stupid governments ignore or insult regional cultures. Few cultures warrant energetic solicitude as much as the Welsh.

The problem is two-fold. To the extent that the provisions of the draft directive are arguably health and safety-related, the scientific

evidence of the need for remedy is

scant. We really should not be forced to contemplate EC instruments offering prescriptions unless also persuaded that there is indeed an illness to be treated.

Second, many of the directive's provisions smack suspiciously not of health and safety protection but of employee rights: leave and payment arrangements, for example. The relationship with health and safety becomes indirect, even tenuous. The Treaty of Rome distinguishes between "employees' rights and interests" and "health and safety". So too should our Social Affairs Commissioner, Mrs Papandrea.

The CBI is far from complacent. Few firms can afford to ignore the contribution that women can

make to their success and none

should. Few firms pursue anything but high standards of health and safety at the workplace; here too, absolutely none should. We doubt, as our fellow EC employers doubt, if Mrs Papandrea's initiative has much to add to this.

If it is substantially amended, or if it fails, this will be because the governments of EC member states share our doubts. There would be a precedent. Just as your article was wrong in referring to a social charter guaranteeing all EC workers a minimum wage and shorter hours" so it was wrong to repeat the myth that the UK alone blocked the earlier parental leave directive.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. PRICE.

Deputy Director-General,  
Confederation of British Industry,  
Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

October 24.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Disasters, damages and responsibility

From Dr J. R. Waldram

Sir, Mr Justice Turner's ruling in the Herald of Free Enterprise manslaughter case (report, October 20) raises again the disturbing question of attitudes to professional responsibility. To have ruled that the degree of negligence fell short of that required for a verdict of manslaughter would be understandable. But to rule that there was "no direct evidence that any of the five senior defendants would have perceived the risk was obvious" is surprising.

This is the point which the Attorney General now has under consideration.

In the Clapham rail disaster (report, September 11) it seems that engineers allowed a new signalling system to be installed by badly supervised and exhausted men working excessive overtime, and knew that the installation had not been properly tested.

In the Kegworth air crash (report, October 19) some blame clearly attaches to the pilot and co-pilot. Nevertheless, judging by their reported cockpit conversation, there must be considerable doubt whether they had ever been exposed to training which adequately emphasised the extreme importance of not shutting down the wrong engine of a two-engined aircraft.

In both these cases some of the blame surely attaches to engineers, managers, or other professionals who failed to take advance action to prevent tragedies which a competent professional could and should have foreseen.

Are we forgetting in the nineties what standards have to be applied if professional responsibility is to be maintained?

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. WALDRAM,  
Pembroke College,  
Cambridge.  
October 26.

From Mr Simon Pearl

Sir, The call by a leading disaster lawyer, Rodger Pannone (report, October 20) for the introduction of punitive damage awards in civil cases, in the wake of the collapse of the Zeebrugge trial, is misconceived. The immediate effect of such a change would be that the current position, where most mass disaster cases settle without trial at a relatively early stage, will be reversed as lawyers grapple with the uncertainty of the court's new powers.

Difficult conflicts of interest will develop both for the plaintiffs' lawyer, who is faced with an otherwise acceptable offer of settlement of his clients' claim exclusive of a punitive damage figure, and for the defendants' lawyer faced with the difficulties of balancing the interest of insurers, who will cover the compensation, and the company exposed to the uninsured punitive damage element.

The concept would inevitably distort our system of civil damages and would have the unfortunate effect that more cases would be tried as opposed to settled, whilst the legal profession sought to grapple with the question of what was a "fair penalty" for wanton recklessness.

No doubt society has a desire for retribution, but despite the failure of the criminal proceedings against the Zeebrugge defendants the answer does not lie in the civil courts. The future victim of a disaster would be the ultimate loser if such a system were introduced, even if a small proportion of any punitive damage award would be allocated to him, as he or his family would have to wait for many years for a trial.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON PEARL,  
Davies, Arnold, Cooper  
(Solicitors),  
6-8 Bouviers Street, EC4.  
October 22.

### Financial strains on family life

From Mrs Amennike Lines

Sir, The debate about child benefit increases ignores the fact that there has been an enormous shift in financial resources over the last generation from families supporting children to the single, childless and those whose children are no longer dependent upon them.

Raising a family (whether on one or two incomes) imposes heavy costs on parents and these are certainly not confined to the first five years of the child's life. Having children is not a private consumer choice in which the state and society have no interest.

Even today's affluent childless couples will depend for their standard of living in old age upon the productivity and taxes of our children.

Child benefit (replacing both family allowances and child tax allowances) is the only recognition our fiscal system gives to the costs of child rearing. The "married couple's" allowance goes to every married man, irrespective of whether he has children, and a non-working wife cannot transfer her personal allowance to her husband, thus boosting net family income.

The failure to up-rate child benefit regularly in line with inflation means that the relative position of families with children gets steadily worse. Paying an increase only to the child is unfair to larger families, many of whom are particularly hard-pressed.

No doubt society has a desire for retribution, but despite the failure of the criminal proceedings against the Zeebrugge defendants the answer does not lie in the civil courts. The future victim of a disaster would be the ultimate loser if such a system were introduced, even if a small proportion of any punitive damage award would be allocated to him, as he or his family would have to wait for many years for a trial.

Yours faithfully,  
SUE SLIPMAN, Director,  
National Council for One Parent Families,  
255 Kentish Town Road, NW5.  
October 25.

Plants of Falashas

From Mr R. Gale

Sir, Mr Andrew Lycett (report, October 17) declares that American Jewish organisations accused Israel of going slow on its policy of accepting the Jews of Ethiopia. He goes on to say that the Jewish Agency is establishing a permanent community of Jews in Addis, Ababa rather than helping them on their way to Israel. These two statements are perfectly true.

Israel does not need and does not want Ethiopian Jews to come to Israel.

Last July I was a guest of former President Jimmy Carter at his estate in Atlanta a few days before he visited Ethiopia. I asked Mr Carter to intercede with President Mengistu to facilitate the exodus of the 18,000 Jews in Ethiopia.

On his return he told me that he had discussed the question with

President Mengistu who told him that he had made it clear to the Israeli authorities for some time that the whole of the Jewish community in Ethiopia could leave with all their possessions whenever they wished to do so, but that Israel was unwilling to receive them because they were old and sick, handicapped and disabled and illiterate and without any skills, and that priority was being given to emigrants from the Soviet Union who were able bodied and literate and skilled.

President Mengistu indicated that the attitude of the Israeli agency was that the Jews in Ethiopia had waited long enough and they could continue to wait some time longer.

Yours faithfully,  
R. GALE,  
Egerton Chambers,  
240 Stamford Hill, N16.

Charity on the shelf



## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 26: The President of the Italian Republic, with the Italian State in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of the State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Captain the Hon. Richard Margesson was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Temporary Equerry to Her Majesty.

His Excellency Mr Karim Ebrahim Al-Shakar was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the State of Bahrain to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Rasheed Al Dosari (First Secretary), Mr Faisal Al Dosari (First Secretary), Mr Hamed Al Asfour (Second Secretary), Mr Fayed Al Mowdy (Third Secretary), Mr Mohsin Shariff Khouri (Third Secretary) and Mr Hassan Al Monfardini (Cultural Attaché).

Mrs Al-Shakar was received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Monsieur Jean-Paul van Bellingen and Madame van Bellingen were received in Full Sovereign Audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Belgium to the Court of St James's.

Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary and Registrar of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and delivered up to Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office.

Real Admiral David Macey was received by The Queen, delivered up the Rod, Badge and Chain of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod, and received from Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office upon his retirement as a member of the Royal Honourable Order of the Bath.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Richard Peirse was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath when Her Majesty handed him the Rod, Badge and Chain of Office.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Crickell was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Head of the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Department, Metropolitan Police when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attended a

lunch at the Dorchester Hotel.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall).

Brigadier Clive Roberson

the Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of The Prince Philip Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead attended a Trustees meeting at the Guildhall, Windsor, and afterwards attended a dinner at the Castle Hotel where His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson).

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Boyne (Lord in Waiting) called upon the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Jacobs at Dolphin Square, London, SW1 on behalf of Her Majesty before farewell to Their Excellencies upon their departure from this country.

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 26: This evening The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), attended the Officers' Regimental Dinner at the Merchant Company Hall, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Colonel of the Regiment (Brigadier C D M Ritchie).

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

### CLARENCE HOUSE

October 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The London Scottish Regiment, today received Colonel John Clemence, Major Keith Pearson and Pipe-Major John Spoor.

Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated Pipe-Major Spoor with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

### KENSINGTON PALACE

October 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Dinner and Ball organised by the Devon Centenary Committee of the Society at the Plymouth Mount House, Plymouth.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Devon (The Earl of Morley).

The Hon. Mrs Wills was in attendance.

### KENSINGTON PALACE

October 26: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northamptonshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (Mr John Lowther).

In the morning His Royal Highness was received the refurbished Northampton Central YMCA, Cheyne Walk, Northampton.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester visited the Caswell Adhesives Factory, Kettering and subsequently opened Saxon Hall, Raunds.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

### Church services tomorrow

#### Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

##### SAINT CATHARINE CATHEDRAL

8.30 M 11 S. Euchar. Missa Brevis in Three Parts (Nunsmore) Very Short.

10.30 M. Super. Gregorian. W2. 8

11.30 M. Super. Gregorian. W2. 8

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Originals: Ann Muir, paper marbler

## Drawing on an old eastern art

ON THE threshold of her fiftieth birthday, Ann Muir pulled on her wellington boots and got down to the rather fluid business of establishing a workshop making multi-coloured, marble-effect paper. This entails the daily ritual of boiling carageen, a seaweed also known as Irish moss. As an emulsifying and gelling agent, it forms the basis of the process.

Eighteen months later, her hand-marbled paper desk accessories are stocked by Forinum & Mason in London and another of her designs is reproduced on a chain store's range of photographic albums. Mrs Muir had dabbled in a variety of jobs, including cookery, child care and chauffeuring, but she "always loved anything to do with paper, paint and glue".

Eventually she came to be an outworker for a marbling company, sticking photograph frames together during evenings and weekends as her children grew up. "Then the person I worked for had an accident and, suddenly, I found I virtually had to run the company."

Mrs Muir in due course decided to apply her newly acquired business acumen to working for herself. Now craftsmen such as bookbinders seek out her work for endpapers, and to use on the covers of fine bindings. Her designs have also been displayed at the Victoria & Albert museum.

At the workshop in Somerset, she produces a host of smaller items, including stationery boxes and bridge scorecard sets. She is also planning to take commissions for four-panel room screens. The heavily lacquered, durable, light-weight screens stand 5ft 6in high, and cost £250.

The same hand-marbling process is used to achieve a variety of effects for a wide range of items. The first step involves brewing the carageen, which comes from France, Ireland and Canada, and which Mrs Muir obtains in pow-

der form in 50lb drums. The concoction must be left for 24 hours, before being poured into a tray over a lightbox. Then water-based inks are dropped on to the surface, together with an expanding agent. Surface tensions stop the colours running into one another. "This way it's possible to get a good hard edge," she says.

The multi-coloured slicks of paint — Mrs Muir seldom uses more than five colours to achieve seemingly unlimited effects — are then combed using a length of wood with "teeth" made from darning needles, and then with a single needle, used over the surface like a pen.

Good quality, porous paper sprayed with alum, a diluted salt crystal, is then laid face down on the surface of the size, and the pattern is immediately picked up. After being hoisted, dried and pressed the marbled paper is ready for use. The only additional treatment required might be a light beeswax polishing for frequently handled desk accessories.

Mrs Muir produces the delicate Turkish style of marbling known as Ebru, and the more familiar stone, antique spot, lettered sky, nonpareil and Stormont patterns.

Hand-marbled paper is said to have come originally from Persia, the technique travelling east to China and west across Europe. The artist Sydney Cockerell is credited with the more recent renaissance of hand-marbling.

Mrs Muir offers a matching service for restoration work and licences to print from her designs are also negotiable.

SANDY BISP

• Ann Muir Marbling, 14 St Mary's Lane, West Woodspring, Frome, Somerset BA11 5LR (09853 2861). Stockists of Mrs Muir's hand-marbled paper and products include Falkauer Fine Papers, 76 Southampton Row, London WC1, and Brougham Crafts, Stockbridge, nr Buntingford, Hertfordshire.



A very special relationship: Delta O'Cathain, a business high flyer in London, and her husband, William, at their country home in Arundel

## Blend of the rainbow

**D**elta O'Cathain, the managing director of the Barbican Arts Centre in London, says: "I dream in colour, and see music, nature and buildings in colour".

To her the Barbican — which Bernard Levin lambasted as "a gruesome labyrinth... a grim mediocrit... — seems "a kaleidoscope of colour", and it became a rainbow of hope after her husband suffered a stroke a few months before she took up her appointment in October last year. "I don't think I could live without this job now," she says. "I'd almost pay for the privilege. It shows that God is good: there's always some sort of compensation."

Miss O'Cathain (pronounced O'Coineh) sees her flat within the concrete complex (reached without the aid of adequate signposts, which she agrees the £10,000 study just commissioned to make the place more "user-friendly" might discover are needed — as Mr Levin suggested) in shades of warm terracotta. Her weekend home in Arundel, west Sussex, is visualised in earthy browns and sunny yellows. She travels the 66 miles between them in "a very elegant, silvery grey Jaguar, which goes with whatever clothes I'm wearing".

"I have a complete change of identity in the country," says the former managing director of the Milk Marketing Board who ruffled quite a few feathers when she won one of the highest paid jobs in British arts administration without, ostensibly, an arts background. She has since confounded her critics, she feels, "and showed them that I'm not really the philistine business person some people thought".

The first thing I do on a Friday night in the country is to throw off my city clothes and get into a tracksuit and trainers. That helps to separate Delta O'Cathain, managing director, from Mrs Bishop. I never look scruffy, or

like the Jaguar, does not go with the job, she says, is decorated with traditional furniture that makes a contrast to the breathtaking views of St Paul's and the City of

London from its vast picture windows. "I never close the curtains in the flat," she says, "and, surrounded by such a concrete jungle, the furnishings couldn't be chintzy or twee." Not, she adds, that she is a chintzy or twee type.

She says she felt duty bound to "live above the shop", but her kitchen in London is rarely used; she prefers to grab something from one of the Barbican catering services she has recently appointed. In the country she finds the time to make hazelnut ice-cream and meringues. "Life moves at a different pace there," she says. "When I began to lead my double life Bill and I made a bargain that I wouldn't bring work home at the weekends, and I have pretty much stuck to it, although I used to work when he was watching television, and now I sometimes work after I have put him to bed."

Mr Bishop, once an active sportsman — a room in their home has always been "totally dedicated to cricket" — shares her passion for music and used to play the organ in church. It makes her sad to think how her arts job could have given him so much pleasure.

During her days at the Milk Marketing Board she lived during the week in a flat that she has not yet been able to sell. "When I do, maybe I'll be able to complete fixing up the country house the way I'd like," she says. "We bought it complete with carpets and curtains, and maybe that was a mistake because there are acres of Berber carpets, which I despise but can't justify changing." She prefers the more traditional look of Osborne & Little print fabrics and throw-rugs, and is having an

### Home from home: Delta O'Cathain

American patchwork quilt made for her bedroom.

Her stepdaughter calls the country house "the Tardis — because it looks small from the outside but seems to go on forever inside". There is space to spread out, to accommodate Miss O'Cathain's collection of books on art, history, religion, the classics, Ireland and Sussex.

She has classified most of them in meticulous order. Once, when she had to return to London, leaving piles of books on the dining room floor, she later found that her husband, who does not have the use of his right hand, had managed to carry them into the study and put them on shelves. "It must have taken him about 60 trips," the nurse said. "They were not classified in any way because her husband can no longer read.

Despite the distance between them over the past nine years since Miss O'Cathain began to work for the Milk Marketing Board, bought her flat, and began living what she calls her "double life", they have always been an exceptionally close couple. They used to telephone each other every morning at six o'clock when they were apart. "And when I drove home on a Friday evening I'd stop and phone to say 'I'm at the bottom of Bury Hill, put the kettle on,'" she recalls. "I used to feel the tension lifting from me as I approached the country, but now there's a different kind of tension; I need to find out how Bill is."

While Mr Bishop has improved significantly since last year, when his doctor advised her to take the Barbican job on the basis that "you can't have two lives ruined", he still requires almost constant looking after, and at weekends his wife takes over from the nurse.

Always one to look on the bright side, she says: "When I see the sea from my garden and the dome of St Paul's from my flat, I think I have the best of both worlds."

VICTORIA MCKEE

### Breeding

## Preying for a living

JEMIMA Parry-Jones grew up under the beady eyes of birds of prey: her father, Phillip Glasier, was falconer to the actor James Robertson Justice before establishing a falconry centre in the Sixties at Newent, near Gloucester.

When Mr Glasier retired, his daughter, now aged 41, and her husband, Joe, bought the centre and in just under ten years it has developed to become the National Centre for Birds of Prey. They have about 300 birds and have succeeded in breeding 38 species — "more than anywhere else in the world," Mr Parry-Jones says.

Falconry is becoming increasingly popular in Britain, where there are about 7,500 keepers of 15,000 birds of prey.

The Newent centre has birds ranging in size from the pygmy falcon, with a wingspan of 6in, to the bald eagle, which can measure 8ft from wingtip to wingtip. But while zoos around the world send endangered birds to Mrs Parry-Jones because of the centre's reputation for breeding in captivity, she admits to a lack of acknowledgment in one area: "Arabs can never really accept a woman falconer. If a woman is flying, they would either not watch or fall about laughing."

No do Arabs think much of the English falcon favourite, the peregrine. They prefer the saker.

By using artificial insemination, the Parry-Joneses have bred a



Ready eye: a martial eagle at the National Centre for Birds of Prey

hybrid which has a peregrine father and a saker mother. This, they say, performs brilliantly.

Peregrines are popular with most falconers and cost about £600 when they leave the centre at the age of 12 to 14 weeks after being fed on a very high protein diet, principally of chicken and quail. The birds are capable of stooping at up to 100 miles per hour and can live to the age of 20 in captivity, instead of the usual 12 to 15 years in the wild.

One breeding programme at Newent aimed at overall conservation is helping Britain's smallest falcon, the merlin, which is an endangered species as a result of habitat changes. Similarly threatened are the African bateleur eagles, which are also the subject of ecology research and study at the centre.

SB

• Further information: the National Centre for Birds of Prey, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1JJ (0531 820286) and the British School of Falconry, Sterling Mains, near Canterbury, Kent CT4 6AQ (0227 787575).



Nonpareil effect: Ann Muir makes the most of marbling techniques

### Country events

#### THIS WEEKEND

• Steam threshing and ploughing weekend: A celebration of the end of the traditional farming year, with heavy horses and vintage tractors. Also working donkeys, steam-driven rack bench and crane saws, and demonstrations of hurdle and rug making, cider pressing and

other country crafts.

Wreath and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, nr Chichester, West Sussex (024 363348) today, tomorrow, 11am-4pm, adult £2.80, child £1.25.

• Discovering Wales:

Family walks in the company of museum staff to discover local flora, fauna, rocks, fossils and minerals.

Carreg Cennen Castle car park, north of Swansea. Grid ref sheet 159/SN 667154. Today, 2pm.

• Grandfather's harvest:

Threshing drum and Tasker steam engine thresh sheaves of home-grown wheat, traditional cooking in the farmhouse kitchen, demonstrations of corn dolly and bee-keep making, apple bobbing for children. Manor Farm Museum, Upper Hamble Country Park, Buriton, Hampshire (04892 87055). Tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Adult £1.50, child £1.25, family ticket £4.

• British, Manx, Welsh

festivals: Today, Zeffirelli's film *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Domingo, Aldeburgh cinema, 11am. Tickets £3. Solo cello played by Alexander Baillie with music by Bach, Britten and Penderecki. Jubilee Hall, 3pm, tickets £3, £5.80. And tonight, 7.30pm at Snape Maltings, Maher Four and Schubert's Unfinished Symphony with the LPO, tickets £5.50-£14.50.

Tomorrow at 3pm and Mon at 3.30pm, also at Snape, Verdi's *Fafstaf* with singers from the Britten-Pears School, £2.80-£3.80.

Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Today, tomorrow, Monday. Box office 0728 453543.

• Hallowe'en special:

Apple bobbing, ghost trains, fancy dress and turnip lanterns.

Embsay Steam Railway, Embsay, nr Skipton, North Yorkshire. Tomorrow, 11am-4.15pm. Adult £2.25, child £1.

• Local history exhibition:

Last chance to see the comprehensive display of photographs of the local areas over the past 100 years. East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire (0535 807075). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm. Adult £1.80, child 90p.

• Photographers' night

steam: Special extended

opening to provide

photographic possibilities

with two trains in steam plus a

diesel railcar. Also train rides,

demonstrations, competition and prizes for the best photographs taken.

Outside barbecue and refreshments room.

Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (0235 817200). Today, 11am-8pm.

• Craft fair: Sixty visiting

craftsmen and women from all over the country, costumed and demonstrating and selling a wide range of craft items. Full refreshments.

Ragley Hall, Leicestershire, Warwickshire. Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm. Adult £1.50, accompanying child free.

• Haunting Hallowe'en:

Walks through the dimly lit mill followed by a Hallowe'en disco, barbecue and hot home-made refreshments. Plus licensed bar. Fancy dress if you wish.

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Wilmington, Cheshire (0525 527468). Mon and Wed, 7-11pm. Tickets £3.50. Not suitable for children under 12.

• Big night out: Torchlight

procession with floats followed by bonfire and fireworks. Floats judged from 7.30pm. Procession from park corner, 8pm.

Melford Hall, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk. Adult £2, child £1.

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JUDY FROSHAUG

Every new face deserves a few lines.

For over two hundred years, The Times

Births column has constituted the best

introduction to the world. You'd be surprised

at the number of famous people from all walks of life who've made their first appearance there.

And for a small extra charge, you'll receive a gold-

edged certificate stating that your child's birth was

announced in the newspaper of record.

Call 071-481 4000 to place your

announcement. It's a few lines that will make a

When Colleen McCullough is 80, you will recognise her easily. "I plan to terrify everyone to death, smoking black cigars and sitting with my legs apart, wearing pink bloomers. It is not my intention to be a sweet old lady," she said.

As she revealed this she was smoking "the mildest cigarettes you can buy", and sitting quite decorously in a pair of baggy trousers under a baggy tunic. Ms McCullough is on the English leg of the publicity tour for her new novel, *The First Man in Rome*, the first of five chronicling the events leading to the fall of the Roman Republic.

*The First Man in Rome* is not (for anyone who might have feared or hoped for such a thing) much like *The Thorn Birds*, her most famous novel. Ms McCullough does not, like so many mega-selling writers, lay a series of identically shaped golden eggs to make life more easily profitable for herself and her publishers. This is an exhaustively researched work of what the Americans call fiction. Indeed, so thoroughly researched is it that the glossary alone runs to 100 pages.

The book is, at various stages, hard work, exciting, moving, sexy and extremely gory, and she wrote it, she said, because she wanted to write a historical novel and there was no other period in history that had not been done to death. "If I see one more book about King Arthur," she said, "I'll spew."

Writing has made Ms McCullough a great deal of money. In particular, writing *The Thorn Birds* has made her a great deal of money. "But when I made it, I vowed I would never let money rule me." Which would mean?

"Which would mean I started to write for money. And that would necessitate an endless run of *Road to Thorn Birds*, *Son of Thorn Birds*, *Thorn Birds Three*. And I wasn't going to do that. All my books have been totally different. And it would also mean taking the money seriously, which I cannot do. I have an agent who worries about it, but I don't."

Nevertheless, she is happy to have it. "I am one of Australia's richest women. All of the others have inherited their money, so I," she said, with a touch of justifiable pride, "am known as Australia's richest self-made woman." And what does it do for her, being so rich, having self-made all that money? "Not a lot," she said. "It doesn't make you any happier. And you get soaked all along the way, especially when you're on your own. If you buy

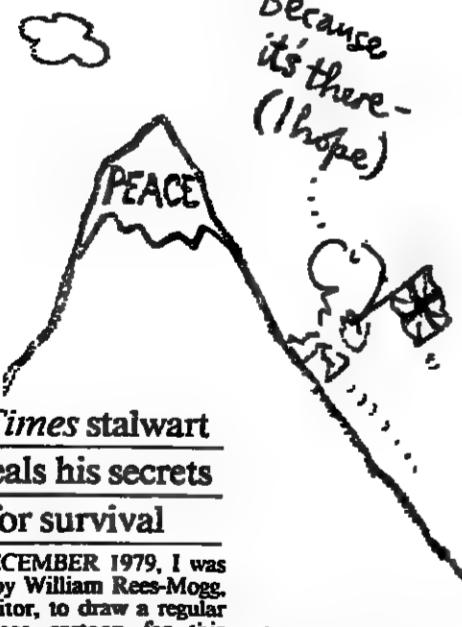
I have a disciplined bottom; all nurses are trained to walk fast and not wiggle their bottoms'

versation. I don't think I ever discovered a feminine conversation."

She was, she said, a confident child. "I just don't know why. They were always trying to slap me down. I was altogether confident, socially as well. I went to a very posh school, but I never felt inferior to any of the other girls, even the ones from rich families." The posh school was a convent in Sydney, where she and her mother finally settled when she was 12. "I begged to go there, and she said, 'I can't afford it, so it's up to you'. I got a scholarship. I was always very ambitious. I just wanted to succeed at whatever I did. I didn't know what at."

This ambition did not extend to having children. "I always knew they would have retarded my career." Her one

## calman Drawn to laughter



A Times stalwart reveals his secrets for survival

IN DECEMBER 1979, I was hired by William Rees-Mogg, the Editor, to draw a regular front-page cartoon for this newspaper. He was too shy to ask me himself, so Louis Heren, the deputy editor, was the one who took me to lunch and popped the question. It remains the only time I have been given lunch by a newspaper editor.

When I joined *The Times*, it was very much like entering a men's club, terribly genteel. For a while, I went to the afternoon conference, where the various heads of department sat in a semi-circle around Rees-Mogg, who occupied a large cane rocking chair and sipped China tea. Jokes were sometimes made — but they were usually either about old books or new cricketers.

I used to show my cartoon ideas to the deputy editor, who referred them to Rees-Mogg only when the jokes were controversial — that is, about the Royal Family and the Catholic Church. A cartoon like the one I did a year or so ago, where a little girl is saying, "When I grow up I want to be Pope", would have been impossible in Rees-Mogg's day.

I cannot draw for a vast body of unknown people called readers. I draw for the Editor or more often the back bench, the names given to the motley crew who make all the

editorial decisions on a newspaper. If they have any glimmer of humour, all is well. If then do not (that is, if they do not like what I do), all is lost. If the editor does not like a cartoon, I start again.

Before I begin drawing, I try to clarify my attitude to the subject: what is the general feeling out there? And if it is a long-running topic, how the devil can I find a fresh angle on it? Trying to be funny comes next. I'm not much good at being significant. I try to make a small pinprick in the portentous bubble of our leaders and their utterances.

I cannot imagine how I have survived this job for 11 years and five Editors. Mostly, I suspect, by keeping a low profile. It is a trick I learned in the army during national service when I wanted to avoid extra guard duty. I come in each evening as quietly as possible, get the drawing done and accepted, and leave before anyone in authority can call me back to change it. I think I have not been fired simply because they forget I am there.

MEL CALMAN

© Merrie England plc, a collection of Mel Calman's cartoons for *The Times*, is published on November 1 by Mandarin Paperbacks £3.99.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

# Renaissance man revisited

Colleen McCullough writes for pleasure but enjoys the profit.

Penny Vincenzi meets Australia's richest self-made woman

a piece of land, have something done to the house, it's going to cost you twice as much if you're rich.

"But it's nice. To have your own money is wonderful. I always wanted to make my own money. I vowed to myself before I left school I would never in my life put myself in a position where I had to ask a man for a penny. And I married at an age and financial status where I did not have to ask my husband for anything. I just wasn't going to let myself care for anybody to the extent where I would have to marry them, and ask for the money for a pound of butter."

She developed this near phobia in childhood, when her mother was perpetually having to ask her father for money. "He was so mean and grudging. It was a very unhappy marriage." He worked on the sugar cane plantations. "He never housed my mother, she lived with her own people on the stations and they moved around the bush from one to another. It

clear ambition at this age was to be off tall. "I wanted to look down on men. But I didn't make it."

She did make 5ft 10in, and is large with it. "But I do have a disciplined bottom. That was my nurse's training; all nurses are trained to walk very fast and purposefully and not wiggle their bottoms."

She nursed briefly, but was

actually trained as a neuro-

physicist at Yale; while she

was there she wrote *Tim*, a

novel about a handicapped

young man, and then *The*

*Thorn Birds*. This led to fame,

fortune and a craving for

privacy, and ultimately to

success, famous, seriously

rich. She drew the illustrations

for *The First Man in Rome*

(which will be published on

November 1 by Century,

£14.99) and is writing the

lyrics for a musical of *Tim*.

Someone once called her

renaissance woman; "but I'm

not, I'm renaissance man.

Renaissance woman sat

around doing embroidery and

trying to please her man."

She is, she said, happy,

hopeful, optimistic. What

would she do if she lost all her

money tomorrow? "Oh," she

said, "I have a husband now, I

would look to him." Isn't that

cheating? "No it isn't," she

said, "and I'll tell you some-

thing. He'd be as happy as a

pig in shit to be the total

breadwinner. But I don't think

he'd subject me to asking him

for the price of a pound of

butter."

breeze." Was it a breeze for her? "Yes, sometimes it is. Sometimes it just goes. It's pure pleasure."

She is the very end of the line of her great, male dominated family. Her brother drowned 25 years ago. "It was frightful. Dreadful. The greatest grief I could ever face. We were best friends, only about 12 months apart, very attached to each other, more than to either parent. I came out the other end, but not without great difficulty. But that increased my confidence, that I could survive that."

So, here she is, at the age of 53, not quite at the black cigars and pink bloomer stage; successful, famous, seriously rich. She drew the illustrations

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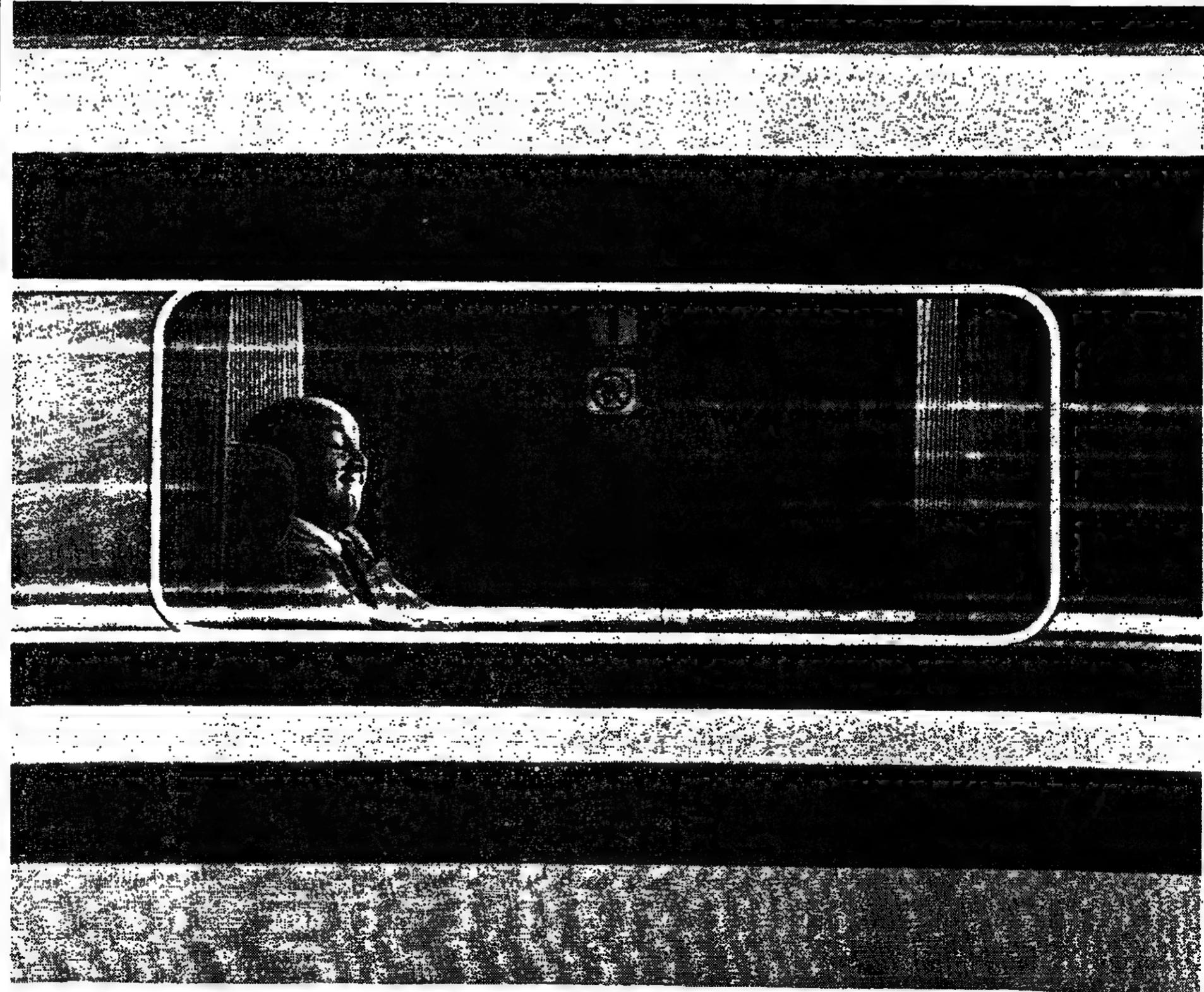
for the price of a pound of

butter."



Relishing the happy hours: Colleen McCullough sometimes works 18 hours at a stretch

# Chuffed, chuffed.



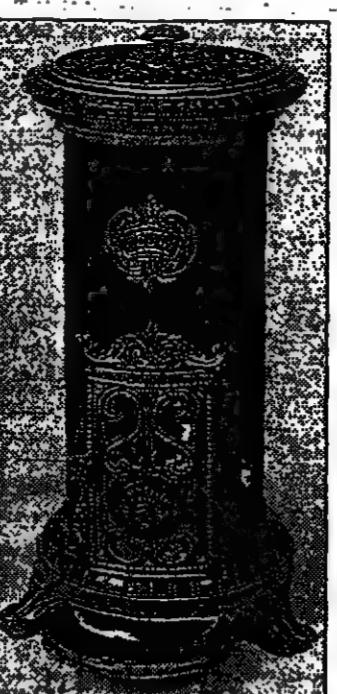
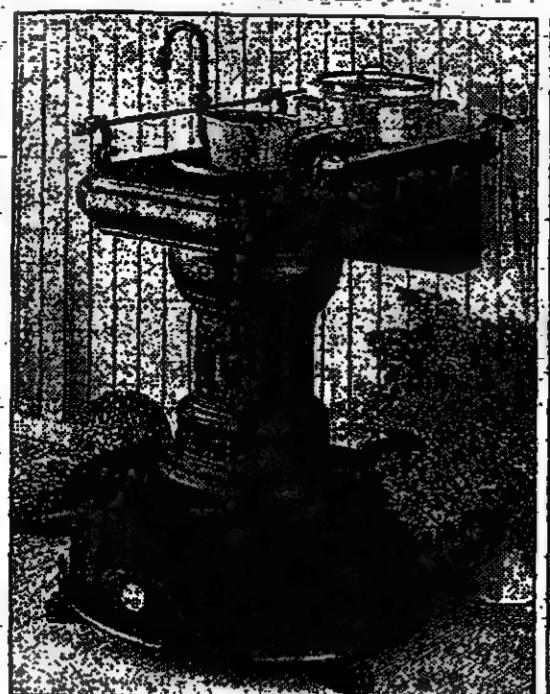
Give yourself a pat on the back if you've booked your car in advance with Hertz.

INTERCITY *Hertz*

APRIL 1991



# Fired with sparkling ideas



Left to right: Dutch-style ThermoCet Platte Buis, £678; rustic-looking French gas Godin, from £399; sturdy ThermoCet gas Rose, £725; and the Stavox multi-fuel Brunet, £331

## Assets

pen fires are not what they used to be initially comforting. After a messy chore, Modern fires offer all the traditional pleasures yet compete with gas on efficiency and running costs. Even the drawbacks, laying and lighting the ashes, are less trouble now. Some have ashcans which need infrequent emptying and others allow for the removal of ash from outside the house.

The bonus is that a real fire, when coupled with a back boiler, can also provide hot water for central heating and domestic use. And, when the fire is left burning low at night, the heat keeps the fabric of the house warm.

A.J. Wells's Fireflow claims to be the world's first fully automatic coal fire, delivering the coal from an outside bunker and transporting the ashes to an external receptacle for easy disposal. The fire is controlled remotely using a hand-held infra-red controller with three burning settings. It takes 90 seconds for the fire to switch from a slumber to full burn. The Fireflow, £1,500, fits a standard 16in fireplace with an outside wall. (A.J. Wells & Sons, Westminster Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5DP, tel 0983 527552.)

Jetmaster aims to double the heat output of a traditional fire with a specially designed firebox in its wood and coal-burning convector models. Room air is drawn

into an inlet under the fire and is then forced into a hot air duct and expelled, rising and circulating to the back of the room. (Jetmaster Fires, Wimall Manor Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8LJ, tel 0962 841341.)

A range of unusual hole-in-the-wall designs, including the Kirstein, which can be slanted to go around a chimney breast, and the Helene Oval are available from Woods Fire Design. Most styles are suitable for all fuels and can be fitted with conventional tapered firebox, basket or dog grate within an 18in opening. (Woods Fire Design, 160-162 Oak Street, St Martin's Gate, Norwich NR3 3BU, tel 0603 626291.)

Another contemporary fireplace is the Oberlik, a geometric see-through design by Robert Hamilton, from La Belle Cheminee, 81-85 Albany Street, London NW1 4BF (071-486 7486).

Even homes with central heating can benefit from some kind of supplementary heating. A good source of decorative heaters, including three styles and five sizes of rustic-looking French-made Godin stoves, is the London Stove Centre at 49 Chalcion Street, London W1 (071-486 5168). Godin stoves burn either coal, wood or gas and cost from £399.

Truancy Reddy's Studio anthracite stove, a long-standing favourite, would suit most contemporary interiors. Designed like a tall, thin tube, it is cheap to run and comes in stainless steel, £653.

Stovax is a multi-fuel stove which was first patented in 1742. It comes in three sizes, from £50.85, and a boiler suitable for use with an indirect domestic hot water system is available. Cast into the side panel is a support bracket into which a barbecue, bean pot or casserole may be fixed.

Stovax makes a range of cast iron multi-fuel stoves in Denmark and most are also available as gas stoves, marketed by a subsidiary company called Gasco. The latest models, which burn wood or solid fuel, include the Sherston, from £528, and the small, 22in Brunet, from £331, which fits into a standard fireplace and can also heat domestic hot water. (Stovax, Falcon Road, Stow Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon EX2 7LF, tel 0392 216923.)

ThermoCet UK offers ten classically styled stoves which run off household or propane gas, including the chunky cast iron Rose stove, £726, which can incorporate a boiler if required, at £976. The Plane Buis, £678, is a copy of an old Dutch model with a tiny hopetree on which coffee pots or casseroles can be kept warm, although the stove is not intended for cooking. (ThermoCet UK, Telford Way, Industrial Estate, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN16 8UN, tel 0536 514964.)

Parkray makes a range of stoves and heaters suitable for contemporary and period interiors. The Classic room heater, from £404, burns solid smokeless fuel and

offers a high-level de-ashing system and a moveable throat plate to facilitate cleaning. (Parkray, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 1WE, tel 0773 823471.)

The mobile Terracotta Space Heater is an unusual device which gives off heat and light and is suitable for any room in the house. Shaped like an urn, with a rounded lid, it stands on a scrolled wrought iron support and comes ready for use with 200W lamp and 5 amp fused plug. Stands are available in black or white PVC-coated wrought iron. The overall dimensions are 18in tall by 18in wide. It costs £69.95, including carriage, by mail order only from T.C. Heaters, 2 Horsehoe Yard, Broadway, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG10 1JL (0734 812171).

Another unusual heater is made by Tobias Harrison, a potter who started off by making a hand-thrown ceramic fire for his 17th century cottage. His fires take around three months to make. The shapes vary, as do the glaze and lustre. The heaters, which are not suitable for families with children or lively dogs as the pottery will break if the heater is knocked over, contain a sheathed element and a simmerstat-type switch varies the heat from lightly to full heat - between 1kW and 1.75kW, depending on size. (Tobias Harrison, Barrow Holton, Cartmel Fell, Cumbria LA11 6NZ, tel 05395 31231.)

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NICOLE SWENGEY

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The mobile Terracotta Space Heater is an unusual device which gives off heat and light and is suitable for any room in the house. Shaped like an urn, with a rounded lid, it stands on a scrolled wrought iron support and comes ready for use with 200W lamp and 5 amp fused plug. Stands are available in black or white PVC-coated wrought iron. The overall dimensions are 18in tall by 18in wide. It costs £69.95, including carriage, by mail order only from T.C. Heaters, 2 Horsehoe Yard, Broadway, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG10 1JL (0734 812171).

Another unusual heater is made by Tobias Harrison, a potter who started off by making a hand-thrown ceramic fire for his 17th century cottage. His fires take around three months to make. The shapes vary, as do the glaze and lustre. The heaters, which are not suitable for families with children or lively dogs as the pottery will break if the heater is knocked over, contain a sheathed element and a simmerstat-type switch varies the heat from lightly to full heat - between 1kW and 1.75kW, depending on size. (Tobias Harrison, Barrow Holton, Cartmel Fell, Cumbria LA11 6NZ, tel 05395 31231.)

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# Battling the billionaire barbarians

Art robberies are increasing; people are being hurt. Whose job is it — government or private sector — to stem the tide?

**A**rt may have its attractions, but now it comes with multiple risks, including theft from your home and your being beaten up in the process. An estimated £2 billion worth of artwork is stolen each year in a growth industry which is second only to drug trafficking.

As well as the 35 raids on galleries in London's west end in the past 18 months, and the theft of two 'Gainsboroughs' and a Reynolds from Lincoln's Inn last month, the ever-increasing list includes *A Dog Called Bumper*, Gainsborough's earliest dated picture, stolen from Ravenglass Hall, Norfolk, ten days ago.

There have been a dozen cases of elderly people being woken up at night in their isolated homes in southeast England, threatened with knives, and trussed up while the burglars took their pick of the collections. In one case, thieves left behind a thumbed reference book on hallmarks as they departed with the family silver.

The past six weeks have seen four armed robberies of porcelain, one the theft of £200,000 worth of Meissen, painstakingly collected during 20 years.

Even the streets are vulnerable: York paving stones removed from Islington, north London; Victorian lamp-posts, taken from Hackney and the Strand; even in a final irony, an antique police box from Piccadilly Circus.

According to informants, the hardened are experiencing difficulties passing on the goods because of slow market conditions. But, being canny connoisseurs instead of panicking, they are simply selling them away.

Another growing phenomenon is the number of return trips made by burglars. Philip Saunders, who runs *Trace* magazine, which circulates pictures of stolen art to subscribers, says there is a four out of five chance that all of us will be

burgled during our lifetime. Once burgled, the odds are even higher that we will be burgled again.

Now for the good news. Something at last is being done about art theft. Little credit is due to any of the bodies one might expect to take the initiative, such as auctioneers and dealers, who frequently find themselves the unwitting conduits for stolen goods, the Home Office, or even the police. Scotland Yard's reformed Art and Antiques Squad consists of two overworked officers, who concentrate on a limited number of important cases.

The initiative has been taken by *Trace* and the Georgian Group, which campaigns to protect 18th century buildings. They are running a three-day conference in Plymouth next month at which they hope to bring together the heads of some of the professionals.

Speakers will include Richard Ellis of the Art and Antiques Squad on "Fine art and antiques theft — all roads lead to London"; Bryan Dovey, the national museum security adviser on "Museum security in the UK", and an FBI man on "international liaison".

*Trace* will also launch a training video on "The anatomy of a fine art thief", a docu-drama introducing viewers to the likely sequence of events from thieves plotting around the kitchen table, to loss-adjustors trying to decide how much to compensate the owner.

"Art theft isn't new. Efforts to combat it are," says Dr Steven Parisian, of the Georgian Group, whose main concern is in checking the phenomenal increase in architectural theft. "There is no liaison between any of the police forces; if a chimneypiece whizzes across a country border, there is no way of tracing it. A lot disappears across the Atlantic."

He asks why the government is ignoring the problem. "There has been more interest from the FBI than the Home Office."

## Contemporary art

### Buying madness at the market

AS Halloween approaches, so does the spending fever which for five days grips the art market in London at this time of the year. Usually said businessmen — clash elbows with the author Douglas Adams and the television personality Francine Stock in their efforts to buy bargains at the Contemporary Art Society market.

Smash and grab is followed by cash and carry, with triumphant buyers departing with carrier bags supplied by the sponsors. Sainsbury's, proclaiming "Good art costs less at the CAS market".

"It's a sort of madness," says Penelope Silver, a selector with Jenni Walwin. She describes the atmosphere as "like a party". Last year, for example a group of three pastel landscapes by Ken Draper were ignored for days.

"Then there was this rush and scuffle and suddenly they were all gone," she says. "There is no rhyme or reason as to what does and does not sell."

As the fray approaches, and works by artists such as

Gillian Ayris and Peter Blak are lined up against newcomers such as the photographer Janusz Olszewski and Sally Poyer, for £100 to £1,500, a number of questions arise.

Has the recession taken the thrust out of those elbows? Have buyers developed misgivings about this method of acquiring what are after all, the fruits of much deeply felt labour? Could it be that having fulfilled its purpose as seed-bed, the society should now retire gracefully to its potting shed?

The fair started seven years ago, when the market was sluggish and barely formed. It was a worthy plan to encourage sales of contemporary art, while the society made a humble profit for itself. Takings are used to buy works for museums.

Sales instantly took off, rising from £30,000 in 1984 to £220,000 last year, largely because of buyers' insecurity about their own tastes, and the reassurance that the work was quality controlled. In 1983, Mrs Silver could take her pick

of attractions range from saws for steppening to the wooden stethoscopes doctors kept in their hats. Prices range from £20 to £10,000.

Mondays: Chinese export porcelain sale at Christie's, featuring those hybrid 18th century ceramics in which western specifications are executed with oriental skill. Includes tureens decorated with the heraldic arms of Jamaican plantation owners (£5,200 to £6,000) and platters with the arms of Bootle (£7,000 to £9,000).

Tuesday: Phillips' minor old masters painting sale: a glowing 16th century head of David is yours for an estimated £800.

Thursday: Savour Lewis Carroll as photographer, when a collection of 42 portraits come

up at Christie's South Kensington at £200 to £28,000 each.

Christie's South Kensington come surprisingly cheap at Christie's Victorian art sale, also in South Kensington. A Burne-Jones pencil study of a dreamboy is estimated at £4,000, while Holman Hunt's signed *William Bay in the Life School* is £10.

The best advice is: go along, but think hard before buying. The artists and future supplies

will not go away.

• *Contemporary Art Society Market, Oct 3 to Nov 3, Smith's Galleries, 25 New Street, Covent Garden, London WC2* (further information 071-821 5323).

Archibald Thorburn, at £30,000 to £40,000.

Christie's South Kensington also offers a selection of prize bulls, carthorses and a painting of John Bull at the barbershop, while Bonhams' modern British sale features a charcoal drawing of a young Leonard Bernstein conducting (£150 to £250), and a head study of Igor Stravinsky by his son Theodore (£200).

The mad Richard Dadd upstages his competitors at Christie's, King Street, Victorian sale, with two works by him still but still dramatic watercolour sketch of *The Death of Richard II*, estimated at £15,000, and *The Diadom*, in which a ship is tossed like a toy in stormy seas, at £18,000.

Both were painted while the artist was in Bedlam hospital after murdering his father.

The highest estimate at the sale is for a grouse painting by

John Phillips (£2,000).

Friday: A lavish pair of 19th century commodes inlaid with cut brass and tortoiseshell, and featuring winged carvings at each corner, estimated at £100,000 to £150,000, could fetch the highest price of the week at Sotheby's sale of 19th and 20th century furniture.

• Sotheby's, New Bond Street, 101-149, London W1. Christie's King Street, St James' 071-839 9060;

Christie's South Kensington 071-581 7611; Phillips, 101 New Bond Street (071-629 6602); Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-384 9161).

For further information contact 071-493 6767.

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## DECORATIVE ARTS

## Renaissance rich with Eastern promise

Throughout its 60-year history, the various proprietors of the Dorchester Hotel have revamped the great interiors with a radical flair and extravagance unusual in such "establishment" establishments; unconventional designers have been hired and original works of art commissioned. Over the past two years this tradition of daring innovation has been revised and, thanks to the wealth of the Dorchester's present owner, the Sultan of Brunei, the entire hotel is nearing the end of a £100 million programme of restoration and refurbishment. This has been carried out by the world's largest hotel design group, Richmond Inson.

Most Londoners speed past the hotel's vaguely Art Deco facade on Park Lane suspecting, perhaps, that the interiors resemble the kinds of angular Thirties settings in which Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers might have tripped. But the exterior is deceiving. Inside, the style of the public areas and prestige suites could even be described as frivolous. In fact, though, the effete modern-roccoco tone has only developed since Lord Snowdon's uncle, the theatre designer Oliver Messel, decorated the new additions to the hotel in the early Fifties.

Now Messel's gorgeous interiors are being painstakingly restored and will doubtless remain the Dorchester's spectacular *pièce de résistance* when it officially re-opens next month. The Penthouse Suite, and the one beneath it named in honour of the designer, are staggeringly theatrical. Nowhere, surprisingly, is there even the faintest echo of Festival of Britain modernism.

The dining-room of the Penthouse is bizarre, even slightly grotesque. Here Messel concocted an outrageous, camp fantasy of a room — a fairytale in which to entertain Branches made of gesso, encrusted with outsize gilded oak leaves, clamber over the mirrored walls, fantastic bird-cages hover at ceiling level and the shameless artificiality of the whole is compounded by a pale green and pink colour-scheme.

After nearly 40 years, John Claridge, one of Messel's original assistants, has returned to help accomplish the renaissance. Claridge is tackling the work with meticulous thoroughness. For example, tiny fanciful caryatids —

Andrew Gibbons  
Williams explores the  
extravagant interiors  
of the refurbished  
Dorchester Hotel



from a side-table entablature originally made of composite — have been replicated in resin. Radiator grilles have been rebronzed and Ottoman wallcoverings rewoven.

In the Pavilion Room — which even with its slender gilt-capped, black Corinthian columns and almond-green silk walls, is *solo vero* compared with the dining room — Messel had been inspired by the playful spirit of Nash's Brighton pleasure dome. So when the designer Alberto Pinto was employed to decorate the Terrace Restaurant in the Seventies, his emulation of the Crane family's interiors was based on a precedent. Pinto's designs are, in fact, a clever pastiche of Regency chinoiserie with a free-standing fretted gazebo structure and exuberant salmon-coloured columns topped with gilded palm fronds. Although less than 20 years old, even this area of the hotel is being overhauled.

When it came to supplementing all this capricious grandeur in the new interiors, Richmond Inson realised that decorateness was the keynote and that there was little risk of going over the top. Wisely, the firm also realised that there was the potential to accommodate work by contemporary artists. At ground level a new Oriental restaurant has been introduced and within it have been carved out three private dining rooms — Chinese, Thai and In-

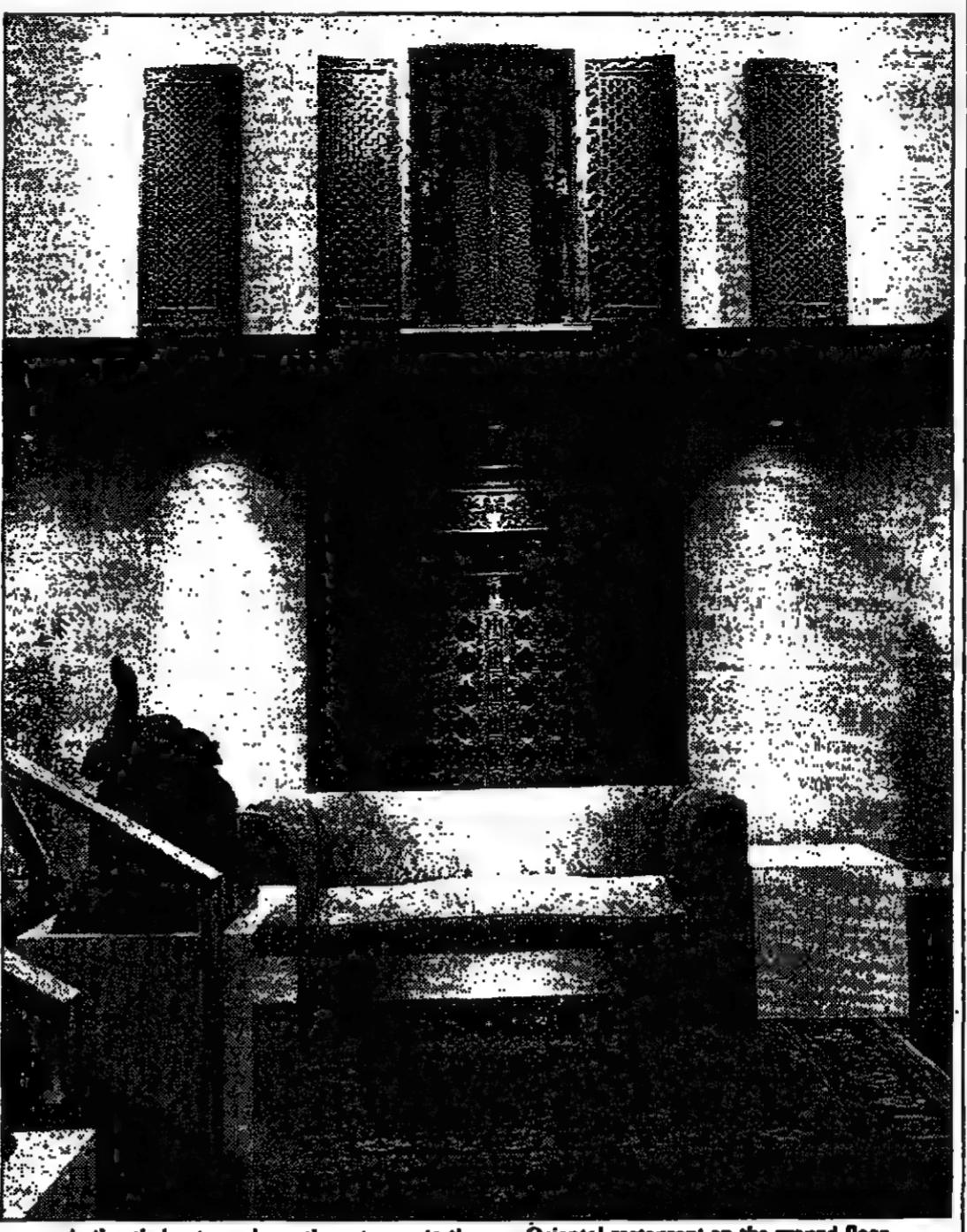
dian. Each of these is like an ornate ethnic shrine, authentic in atmosphere if not in detail. The British firm, Troika, has fabricated remarkably real-looking, high-relief ceilings in moulded fibrous plastic. The artist Sally Howarth has come up with some extremely attractive abstract banners in which Oriental motifs are appliqued on silk and these complement the original work.

Previously — largely, due to Messel, but also to Pinto — the Dorchester's glory has been in its decorative ensembles. Now, Richmond Inson has balanced this with an interior in which contemporary art predominates: the extensive new basement health club. In charge of this important sector was Anita Rosato who assigned some £250,000 of the budget to new art. The theme of the black marble and tiled health-club interior was *subtly Art Deco*, so the end product needed to be sympathetic in some way to the style. Rosato avoided trying to impose some sort of house-style on her chosen stable, but she did make sure her artists understood the projected nature of the environment in which their works were to be located. The result is a far cry from the world of saunas littered with miniature Michelangelo Davids and tawdry, mass-produced "modernistic" prints.

On entering, one is confronted by a beautiful glass screen by Clifford Rainey. Inspired by Botticelli, Rainey modelled a stylised, shell-born Venus in triplicate; the smooth, undulating nude forms contrasting with the sand-blasted ground. Rosato was told from all quarters that a glass screen on this scale was an impossibility, but Rainey managed it by casting in sections.

**B**eside Rainey's screen, overlooking a decorative fountain, the sculptress Laura Lian's high relief of a jungle scene presents a telling foil (see inset, left). Assorted exotic birds cavort in a scene worthy of the Dismal Rousseau. The artist has disdained colour in favour of monochrome. The piece is full of delightful vigour.

For my taste — although convincingly imbued with the gloss and glamour of the inter-war years — Daphne Whittaker's nude torsos are too close to the spirit of Bugatti for comfort. If, in these, one feels as if one is teetering on



Asthetic in atmosphere: the entrance to the new Oriental restaurant on the ground floor

the brink of an abyss of pastiche, then in the health club paintings by the London-based French artist Christian Corgier, one plunges right in. Corgier has produced an Adam and Eve series in a manner so near to that of Tamara de Lempicka that copyright would be infringed if such a thing pursued.

Nevertheless, as components in this opulent scheme they are much more than adequate.

Although Graham Sutherland designed a carpet for the hotel in the Fifties (unfortunately lost), well-known names are thin on the ground at the Dorchester. However, the hotel's heritage of art

world associations has been enriched during the refurbishment:

Gauguin's great granddaughter

executed the new *trompe l'oeil*

ceiling decoration in the famous Gold Room.

Plaque unveiled, page 6

CLIVE DAVIS

## LITERATURE

## Ghetto rebellion from the sepia Steinbeck



Richard Wright: reflected anguish of racial segregation

Clive Davis on the life of American novelist Richard Wright

In the 1940s, Richard Wright was numbered among the United States' most famous novelists. In a country where skin colour still determined a person's future, a society which had produced a "Great White Hope" and a "Brown Bomber", Wright was the "Sepia Steinbeck".

His first novel, *Native Son*, appeared in 1940, pushing *The Grapes of Wrath* off the top of the bestseller list. It was an angry and violent book, the story of a disaffected black youth who kills a white woman. The incoherent rage burning inside Wright's anti-hero, Bigger Thomas, reflected the anguish of Wright's own childhood under segregation in the south, and the book soon attracted the attention of Hollywood's new wunderkind, Orson Welles, who mounted a Broadway version.

Like Welles, Wright found that early success was not to last. Tired of the petty discrimination that ruled his life, even in liberal New York, he went into exile to France. Most of his subsequent books flopped in America, while his left-wing views made him increasingly unpopular in the McCarthy era. In New York, he had been spied on by the FBI; the surveillance continued in Paris. He died, poor and dispirited, in 1960.

There was nothing in Wright's background to suggest he would ever do more than live out the circumscribed existence of a black southerner. Born in a sharecropper's cabin in Mississippi in 1908, he endured a poverty-stricken

childhood. Against the odds, he acquired a taste for literature and the ambition to escape to the relative freedom of the north.

He finally reached Chicago in 1927, and a decade later published a collection of short stories, *Uncle Tom's Children*. The book enjoyed some success in liberal circles, but to his horror, Wright realised that people were praising him for the wrong reasons: "I found that I had written a book which even bankers' daughters could read and weep over and feel good about. I swore to myself that if I ever wrote another book, no one would weep over it; that it would be so hard and deep that they would have to face it without the consolation of tears."

*Native Son* achieved that goal. Bigger Thomas is a brutal, amoral product of Chicago's South Side ghetto, and the novel stands as a tenebrous prophecy of the turmoil lying in wait in America's cities. As the historian Irving Howe put it: "The day *Native Son* appeared, American culture was changed for ever."

Wright came up with another bestseller in 1945 when he published *Black Boy*, a record of his years in the south. The book was instantly recognised as an American classic. By the time he settled in Paris, Wright was an international celebrity. A former communist, he mingled with Sartre's Left Bank circle. Black American artists who followed him into exile looked on him as a father-figure. James Baldwin was among them.

With the Cold War well under-

way, Wright plunged into political activities, joining Sartre on many a public platform. Politics and café socialising took up more and more time. He did not publish his next novel, *The Outsider*, until 1953. In the United States, the critical reception was cool. Wright's subsequent novels met a similar fate. The general verdict was that he was losing touch with American life.

The fall in sales of his books was matched by political pressure from the American government. According to Addison Gayle, a New York academic who has studied the official files on Wright, the novelist was first put under surveillance in the early Forties. His mail was opened by the FBI, and after Wright's death, rumours sprang up that he had been murdered by American agents. Paranoia played its part, but the speculation still continues.

His last years had also been soured by disputes with protégés such as Baldwin. Wright was no longer the undisputed voice of black America; Baldwin and some of the younger aesthetes bridled at the didactic elements in *Native Son*. But for all their occasional faults, Wright's books possess a power that has rarely been equalled. Today, when the rosy-faced feminism of an Alice Walker is all the rage, his message, bleak and unforgiving, still demands to be heard.

• Richard Wright — a *Native Son* will be broadcast on Radio 4 on Sunday at 10.15pm.

## OPERA

## Leaden Roman romp

Satyricon  
Drill Hall

THE British premiere of a piece of music theatre by Bruno Maderna on the subject of Petronius's *Satyricon*, after the manner of Fellini, and performed by the Opera Factory, must have seemed like a winning combination. All the greater pity, then, that *Satyricon* should turn out to be such a dismal failure.

Sixteen episodes relating to a Roman banquet can be given in any order and the dialogue, after Petronius, has been adapted by the director of this production, Robert Chevara. Whether or not the adaptation intended that the dialogue should emerge as so leaden and unfunny, one might have expected that a composer of Maderna's calibre — a leading figure of the Italian avant-garde — would at least have compensated with a score of wit and quality.

Instead, he produced something barely worthy of an undergraduate revue: bleeding chunks of operatic classics alongside matches of cabaret and popular song, all stitched loosely together. Not only is Maderna's "satire" devoid of subtlety in that the pastiche

## ROCK

## Short on notes

Johnny Cash  
National, Kilburn

OLD Gravel Voice is back. Johnny Cash's 35th anniversary tour was supposed to take place five months ago, but was postponed because the singer was still recovering from a broken jaw, contracted during dental surgery. Since he has also suffered from a serious heart condition, audiences should be grateful to see him at all.

It was his throat which caused most concern at Kilburn. For the first hour, he croaked his way through the country and western melodies, retreating every now and then for a glass of water.

The voice problems could not ruin the show. Cash has never been a vocal virtuoso anyway. His appeal lies in the terse, unsentimental sketches of blue-collar life and the steady tractor beat of his band. The title of his new Mercury album, *Boon Chukka Boon*, tells all: wonderfully relaxed, it juggles truckers' laments, advertisements for The Bible and wry digs at the American dream.

The bulk of his show comprised past hits, the favourites greeted with the NW6 version of the rebel yell. The loudest shout went up for the medley from the celebrated Folsom Prison concert. Cash ought to be able to sing this in his sleep. On "Twenty Five Minutes to Go", the thoughts of a man facing the gallows, he stumbled over the lyrics, but without fatal consequences.

The comic ballad "A Boy Named Sue" had to show its face at some point. Cash sounded a trifle bored with this one, as well he might. But he sounded more enthusiastic on "Wreck of the Old 97", a cheerful rail disaster song. A performer who has been using the same drummer for 32 years is unlikely to risk tampering with a successful formula. But there was a contemporary twist to "Don't take your Guns to Town", with a dedication aimed at Margaret Thatcher, George Bush and Saddam Hussein.

His former label, CBS, ought to show some common sense and re-issue the San Quentin and Folsom albums. Two of the most atmospheric live recordings of all time should not be confined to an import list.

CLIVE DAVIS

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Anthony  
Burgess  
and death

"It was the January of 1960 and, according to the prognosis, he had a winter and spring to live through, and would die with the fall of the leaf. But I could not take the death sentence seriously. I did not feel as if I had a brain tumour. After the long evaporation of the tropics, Lynne and I were being stimulated by the winter gales of the Channel [at Hove]. For me, if I was really dying, it did not much matter. For Lynne, ingesting two bottles of white wine and a pint of gin daily, it would matter a great deal."

Anthony Burgess, in an extract from his memoirs, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

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## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

## BBC 1

7.00 Crystal Tipps and Alastair. Animated series about a girl and her dog (r)  
 7.05 Janosch's Story Time. Cartoon about a hare that becomes a postman (r) 7.30 Paddington Peas. Adventures of a lively community of garden peas (r) 7.35 Babar. Animated version of the children's classic tale, *Babar the Elephant*.  
 8.00 Breakfast Serials. Further episodes from six disparate serials ranging from thriller to zany comedy, involving a host of characters all played by Caroline Berry, John Baggs, Lucy Jenkins and William Peate. 8.35 BraveStar. Cartoon adventures in outer space with Marshal BraveStar (r)  
 9.00 Going Live! Children's magazine, hosted by Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield. This week's edition includes live music from Kim Appleby, cartoons with the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and special guests Kylie Minogue and Craig McLachlan.  
 12.12 Weather  
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Rugby League: a preview of the afternoon's international between Great Britain and Australia at Wembley; 12.35 Motor Racing: the Mobil 1 Rally Challenge round two, from north Yorkshire; 12.55, 1.30 and 2.00 Racing from Newbury; 1.10 News; 1.40 Rugby League action from a special nine-episode London series; 2.00, 2.10 Rugby League: two coverage of the first in the British Coal test series between Great Britain and Australia. Former All Black, John Gallagher, now a Leeds man, provides the expert.

## BBC 2

9.00 Open University: Open Advice: The OU is for You 9.25 The Successful Seven 9.50 Behind the Annual Report 10.15 Living Choices: Changing Places 10.40 Mental Handicap: Moving On  
 11.05 Woodhouse Roadshow. Barns Woodhouse trans amahs and their owners in Blackpool (r)  
 11.40 Art of Travel. Michael Palin rides the Cornish Riviera Express on its journey from Paddington to the West Country to see if the area lives up to the claims of the pre-war GWR posters (r)  
 11.50 The Honeymoons (b/w). Vintage American comedy starring Jackie Mason as Ralph Kramer and Art Carney as his best friend Ed Norton. 12.15 Film: The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell (1955) starring Gary Cooper, Jack Lord, Peter Graves and Robert Stack. The story, set in 1925, of a ruthless American general who confronts the war and navy departments and accuses them of negligence and lack of investment in air power. This leads to his arrest and court martial. Directed by Otto Preminger.  
 1.55 Discoveries Under Water. Tim Poggi-Smith narrates the story of the search for treasure in the wreck of the Nuestra Senora de Atocha, a Spanish galleon which sank off the coast of Florida in 1622 (r) (Ceefax)  
 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 24 of the 91-part dramatisation of India's epic poem, *Wales* (4.40) Picadilly Cymru Conference  
 2.55 Film: Valley of the Sun (1942, b/w). Early version of a spaghetti Western, starring Lucille Ball as a woman torn

between her unscrupulous fiancé and a scout whose determination to see that the Indians are treated justly by the army puts him on the wrong side of the law. With James Cagney and Dean Jagger. Directed by George Marshall.  
 4.40 Tannin. The first semi-final of the Midland Bank ladies' championship at Brighton. Introduced by Barry Davies.  
 5.30 Mexico Vivo. Patricia de la Peña presents an introduction to Latin American Spanish and the Mexican people and culture. Today's programme visits Tabasco on the Gulf coast to find out how the traditional cattle areas have been transformed by the discovery of huge oil reserves  
 5.55 Lane Again. Highlights from the week's edition of *The Late Show*  
 6.40 News with Morna Stuart and Lynette Littiglow. Weather



Over the top: Germaine Greer (7.25pm)

7.25 The Ring of the Nibelung: The Valkyrie, Act 3  
 CHOICE. It continues to annoy that these monumental Wagnerian characters are chopped off at

analysis: 4.10 Rugby Union: highlights of the match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, between Ireland and Argentina; 4.40 Final Score  
 5.00 News with Morna Stuart. Weather 5.10 Regional news and sport. Wales (to 5.40) Wales on Saturday  
 5.15 Stay Tooned! The second of two programmes in which Tony Robinson tells the story of the famous cartoon stars of MGM. He is helped by vintage clips and classic cartoons including those made by Tex Avery  
 5.40 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Road Show. Noel Edmonds is joined by the viewers' watchdog, Mary Whitehouse, and introduces other special guests, including husband and wife television presenters Keith Chegwin and Maggie Philbin  
 6.25 Every Second Counts. Paul Daniels hosts the quiz show where contestants compete for a dream holiday prize while being bombarded by the wit of the minuscule magician  
 7.00 Russ Abbott. The entertainer once again displays his versatility as he appears in a number of sketches including a performance of an electric Spanish flamenco and a re-working of *Wise and the Wind* (Ceefax)  
 7.30 In Sickness and in Health. Comedy series about a bitter, bickering but strangely endearing old man and his battles against bureaucracy. This week Al is forced to come to for his wedding by his beloved Mrs Hollingsbury. Unfortunately, this means no smirking or drooling (Ceefax)  
 8.00 All Creatures Great and Small: A Grand Memory for Forgetting. The heart-warming experiences of the members of a small veterinary practice in the Yorkshire Dales, based on the books by James Herriot. Segued

1.20am Weather

discovered who shot Jacob Pearson's dog and decides to deal with the matter personally. Starring Christopher Timothy, Robert Hardy and Lynda Bellingham (Ceefax)

8.50 News with Michael Buerk. Sport and weather

9.10 Film: Cop Killer (1989) starring Ken Olin, Joseph Bottoms and Patricia Wettig. Manny Mandell's life is thrown into chaos when his police partner and long-time friend is killed in the line of duty. Mandell is teamed with a partner he dislikes and, although he is married to an understanding wife, he comes dangerously close to having an affair with his dead partner's widow. The second film in the *Police Story* series, which mixes drama with soap opera entertainment. Directed by Larry Shaw (Ceefax)

10.45 Ben Elton: The Man from Auntie. The acerbic wit of the satirist in the glitz suit is unleashed for another half an hour and, love him or hate him, the fact remains that Ben Elton has a knack of picking up on the little things in our lives and exposing their absurdity in great comic style (r)

11.15 Film: The Lost Command (1966) starring Anthony Quinn, Alain Delon, George Segal and Claudia Cardinale. Compelling story of French-Algerian guerrilla warfare in north Africa. French paratrooper fight a rebel army led by a former colleague who was respected throughout the corps. Gripping action sequences, impressive set pieces and strong performances from the international cast make this above average entertainment. Produced and directed by Mark Robson

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# Union leaders at odds over 'responsible' wage policy

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union leaders clashed sharply yesterday over the TUC's offer to the government and employers to bargain responsibly over pay.

Employers welcomed the TUC's statement, made in a confidential policy paper submitted for next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, comprising representatives of the government, employers and unions. Some unions insisted that the statements in the TUC's paper did not amount to an offer of pay responsibility, and especially that they did not mean an agreement on wage restraint.

The crucial clause in the private document refers to the likely employment costs that could flow from Britain's entry into the EC's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), and then says: "The trade union movement is willing to accept its responsibilities to avoid such costs, provided others are willing to respond in kind."

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "The TUC is not in the business of offering wage restraint." However, he added that the TUC was ready at the economic development council to discuss pay alongside investment, productivity, training, inflation and living standards.

The strongest support for the TUC's paper came from John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union. He said the statement was "more forthright than the TUC has been in modern times... it will be very interesting to see how the government reacts to this bold offer."

Government ministers would not comment on that yesterday, while it is understood that in general terms they welcome responsible wage bargaining by trade unions, they are not in favour of any consensual, tripartite wage-setting by government, employers and unions. They see that as both a return to the 1970s and as unworkable.

The employment department said that Michael Howard, the employment secretary, who will chair next week's council meeting, was willing to listen to what the unions had to say. Privately, ministers largely agreed with

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the AEU engineering union, who said the unions would be unable to deliver pay responsibility. Bill Jordan, the AEU president, who will present the TUC document at the council meeting, also insisted that the TUC was not interested in wage restraint. "It's not unimportant but it is not central to our argument that in the area of pay stability the TUC will play part," he said.

Bill Morris, deputy general secretary of the TGWU transport union, which is pursuing inflation-plus pay deals, said: "The TUC could not deliver a rigid pay norm because trade union members would not accept it."

John Banham, director-general of the CBI, said jobs would go unless there was responsibility over pay. The CBI said it welcomed any recognition, particularly after Britain's entry into ERM, of the need to bring UK wage costs at least into line with those of Britain's EC competitors.

Conservative MPs reacted with a mixture of scepticism and surprise to the news that the TUC is to act "responsibly" over pay. Sir William Clark, MP for Croydon South, said there was now far more realism among the trade union leadership.

Union reaction, page 2  
Leading article, page 13



Helping with enquiries: Derek Hatton, left, is escorted by a detective after being arrested at his home in Wavertree, Liverpool, yesterday

## Hatton one of 22 held in land deal raids

Continued from page 1

Kinnock was leading the party. He won a seat on Liverpool city council in 1979 and when Labour took control four years later, he became the public face of the authority. He was behind a massive council house-building programme and a refusal to cut jobs or services in spite of cash shortages.

In 1985, Mr Kinnock denounced Mr Hatton and his fellow councillors at the party conference in Bournemouth when he spoke of the "grotesque chaos of a Labour council hiring taxis to scuttle around a city handing out redundancy notices to its own workers". A year later, Mr Hatton and other councillors were expelled from the party in a Militant purge. He and 46 other Labour councillors were also surcharged and suspended from office for five years for failing to set a legal rate.

The following March, they lost their appeal and Mr Hatton turned his attention to setting up his public relations consultancy. Since then he has maintained his high profile with his sharp suits and BMW with the personalised number plate DEG5Y. He charges £500 for after-dinner speeches, has hosted a local radio chat show, and was recently paid a reported £50,000 to portray a tycoon using his Rolls-Royce to go shopping in Bond Street as part of a Christmas advertising campaign for Sekonda watches.

Opening a £500,000 golf range in which he has a one-third stake, Mr Hatton, who is married with four children, said recently: "I'm a beginner at golf. It's like the shaving advert — I liked the game so much I bought a driving range."

## Kuwait reduced to a port town

Continued from page 1  
August 2 had initially been widely interpreted abroad as a sign that President Saddam Hussein was intending one day to withdraw from the country once it had been stripped of its wealth. But observers who regularly monitor the actions of the Iraqi occupation forces now believe quite the opposite is true.

"They are trying to turn Kuwait into what it would have been if it had always been Iraq," one senior diplomat said. "They did not look it because they plan to withdraw. They have no intention of withdrawing. Instead they want to

turn it into a secondary provincial place, like the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, which has oilfields but little wealth."

Another Western diplomat said: "The Iraqis believe that Kuwait is a seaside town with a few oilfields and a port. It does not need ministries, skyscrapers, five-star hotels and ringroads."

Foreigners who arrived in Baghdad this week confirmed that, although schools, banks and shops were open and that a semblance of normality was returning to the emirate, the limited services are clearly intended to cater for a much reduced population.

Wendy St George, aged 30, a British beautician who arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait this week, said: "There is food in Kuwait but it is in very short supply and if you want bread you have to queue from four in the afternoon to half past nine at night."

Hundreds of thousands of expatriates, from unskilled Asian manual workers to Western company directors, have fled from the country in the past three months and there are suspicions that Iraqi and Palestinian families loyal to President Saddam will be used in future to colonise the new province.

## Ruling likely on disaster law

By LIN JENKINS

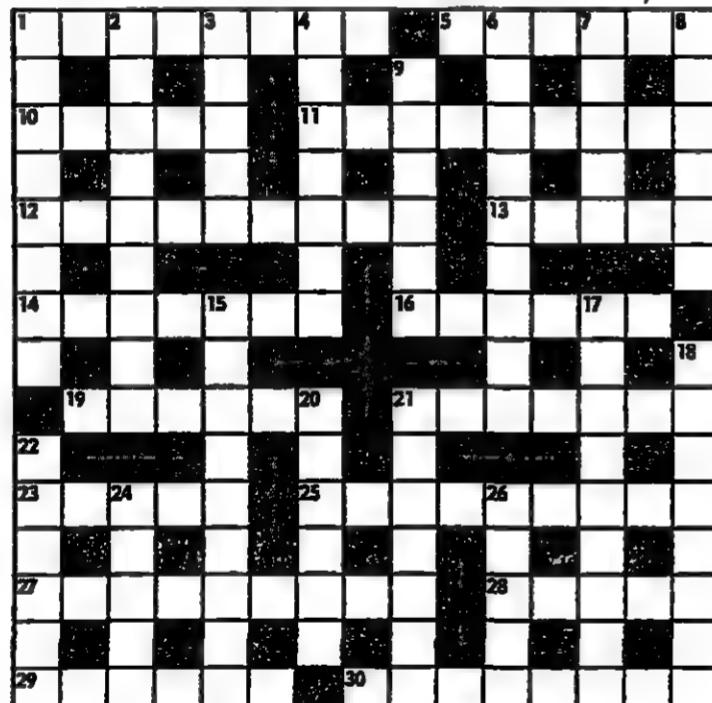
right in his direction that the evidence presented at the Central Criminal Court was such that the jury should not be invited to conclude that there was an "obvious risk" that the Herald of Free Enterprise would sail with her bows doors open and capsize.

Any decision by the appeal court would not affect the acquittal of those involved, but would clarify the law on manslaughter and go some way towards justifying the original decision to prosecute. The collapse of the case against seven employees of P&O

European Ferries (Dover) Limited, and the company itself, last Friday, led to calls for changes in the law whereby some form of corporate responsibility would be established.

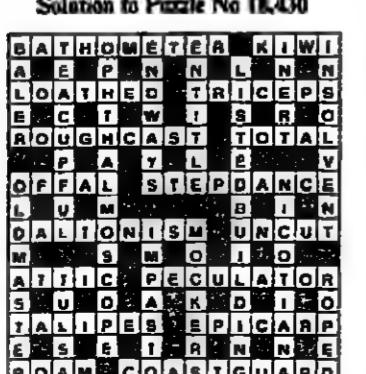
The Crown had tried to establish an "obvious and serious" risk of the ferry sailing with open doors, but failed when defence counsel argued that, if the officers and masters called as expert witnesses had not seen an obvious risk, there was no evidence on which to leave the question of "obviousness" to the jury.

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,436



ACROSS  
1 Mug presented at christening? (4-4).  
5 Rhyming slang for plutocrat (3,3).  
10 Courted sweetheart — still in danger, apparently (5).  
11 Computer picture of mother? (9).  
12 Ordered old soldiers to secure foothold (9).  
13 Excellent provincial force suffering setback in court (5).  
14 Test, inconclusive legal argument in case (7).  
16 After initial move, your opening becomes devious (6).  
19 Source of sweetness and light? Just the opposite (6).  
21 Church leader's quiet about dispute (7).  
23 As family man, he's prepared to take the pledge (5).  
25 Piece of music to sing with the Head of Eton? (9).  
27 Political leader willing to attack with missiles (9).  
28 I struggled with persistent climber (5).  
29 City repaired at last (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,435



PARKER DUOFOLD A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Saturday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 886, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

LEMMISCATE  
a. Marshy  
b. A closed curve  
c. An ice-dancing skater

SOBOLE  
a. The main tree trunk  
b. To subvert  
c. An underground stem

PRANNET  
a. A fool  
b. A card game  
c. A young prawn

OLIM  
a. A ditching spade  
b. A medieval hermit  
c. A salamander

Answers on page 15

### TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701  
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702  
Dorset, Hampshire 703  
Devon & Cornwall 704  
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire 705  
Beds, Herts & Essex 707  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708  
West Midlands, Shropshire & Gwent 709  
Shrops, Herefords & Warks 710  
Central Midlands 711  
East Midlands 712  
Lincs & Humberside 713  
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire 714  
Gwent & Gwynedd 715  
W. & S. Yorks & Dales 718  
N. E. England 718  
Cumbria & Lake District 719  
S. W. Scotland 720  
W. Coast, Scotland 721  
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 722  
E. Cambr. Scotland 723  
Grampian & E. Highlands 724  
W. Scotland 725  
Galloway, Orkney & Shetland 726  
N. Ireland 727

Weatherfax is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circ.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M25 733

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Midlands 739

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

### WEATHER

and southwest Scotland, with showers more frequent along the south and west coasts. Possible thunder. More cloud and rain will spread into the South-West in the afternoon, reaching most parts of the country by midnight. Northeast Scotland will have a cloudy day, with rain. Outlook: more rain or showers likely over most parts, and becoming very windy.

### ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=thunder; d=drizzle; f=fog; s=sun; sh=sleet; sn=snow; t=tier; c=cloud; r=rain

C F C F

Alaska 21 70 s Majorca 26 68 s

America 22 70 s Malta 26 77 s

Africa 23 70 s Mexico C 27 61 s

America 24 70 s Mexico S 27 63 s

Antarctica 25 70 s Mexico T 27 65 s

Arabia 26 70 s Mexico U 27 67 s

Australia 27 70 s Mexico V 27 69 s

Africa 28 70 s Mexico W 27 71 s

Europe 29 70 s Mexico X 27 73 s

Asia 30 70 s Mexico Y 27 75 s

Caribbean 31 70 s Mexico Z 27 77 s

Cape 32 70 s Mexico A 27 79 s

Cape 33 70 s Mexico B 27 81 s

Cape 34 70 s Mexico C 27 83 s

Cape 35 70 s Mexico D 27 85 s

Cape 36 70 s Mexico E 27 87 s

Cape 37 70 s Mexico F 27 89 s

Cape 38 70 s Mexico G 27 91 s

Cape 39 70 s Mexico H 27 93 s

Cape 40 70 s Mexico I 27 95 s

Cape 41 70 s Mexico J 27 97 s

Cape 42 70 s Mexico K 27 99 s

Cape 43 70 s Mexico L 28 01 s

Cape 44 70 s Mexico M 28 03 s

Cape 45 70 s Mexico N 28 05 s

Cape 46 70 s Mexico O 28 07 s

Cape 47 70 s Mexico P 28 09 s

Cape 48 70 s Mexico Q 28 11 s

Cape 49 70 s Mexico R 28 13 s

Cape 50 70 s Mexico S 28 15 s

Cape 51 70 s Mexico T 28 17 s

Cape 52 70 s Mexico U 28 19 s

Cape 53 70 s Mexico V 28 21 s

Cape 54 70 s Mexico W 28 23 s

Cape 55 70 s Mexico X 28 25 s

Cape 56 70 s Mexico Y 28 27 s

Cape 57 70 s Mexico Z 28 29 s

Cape 58 70 s Mexico A 28 31 s

Cape 59 70 s Mexico B 28 33 s

Cape 60 70 s Mexico C 28 35 s

Cape 61 70 s Mexico D 28 37 s

Cape 62 70 s Mexico E 28 39 s

# SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27 1990

## SUMMARY Clough's career



IT IS 25 years ago today since Brian Clough, (above), then aged 30, began his career as a football manager with Hartlepool United, who were second from bottom of the fourth division.

Since then, as manager of Derby County and Nottingham Forest, he has reached the heights of footballing achievement, winning two first division championships, two European Championships and four League Cups. Clive White considers the secrets of an enduring success. Page 29

### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### Strong start

AUSTRALIA have shown few signs of weakness on their tour so far, winning all of their matches, and they start the first international against Great Britain at Wembley today in confident mood. Preview. Page 31

### TENNIS

#### Gomer out



SARAH Gomer (above) lost 6-1, 6-1 to Helena Sukova in the quarter-finals of the Midland Bank tournament at the Brighton Centre yesterday, thus ending British hopes of success there. Andrew Longmore reports. Page 30

### RUGBY UNION

#### All change

BARELY three months have passed since Argentina beat England in Buenos Aires but the team that will play Ireland at Lansdowne Road today shows many changes. Ireland have a new coach, Ciaran Fitzgerald, and will be looking to improve on their showing last season. Page 31

### GOLF

#### Record round

WITH a course-record 65, José Rivero joined another Spaniard, José María Olazábal, in the lead at the halfway stage in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama, Spain. They were on 141, a shot ahead of Mike Harwood and Sam Torrance. Page 32

### SKIING

#### Down turn



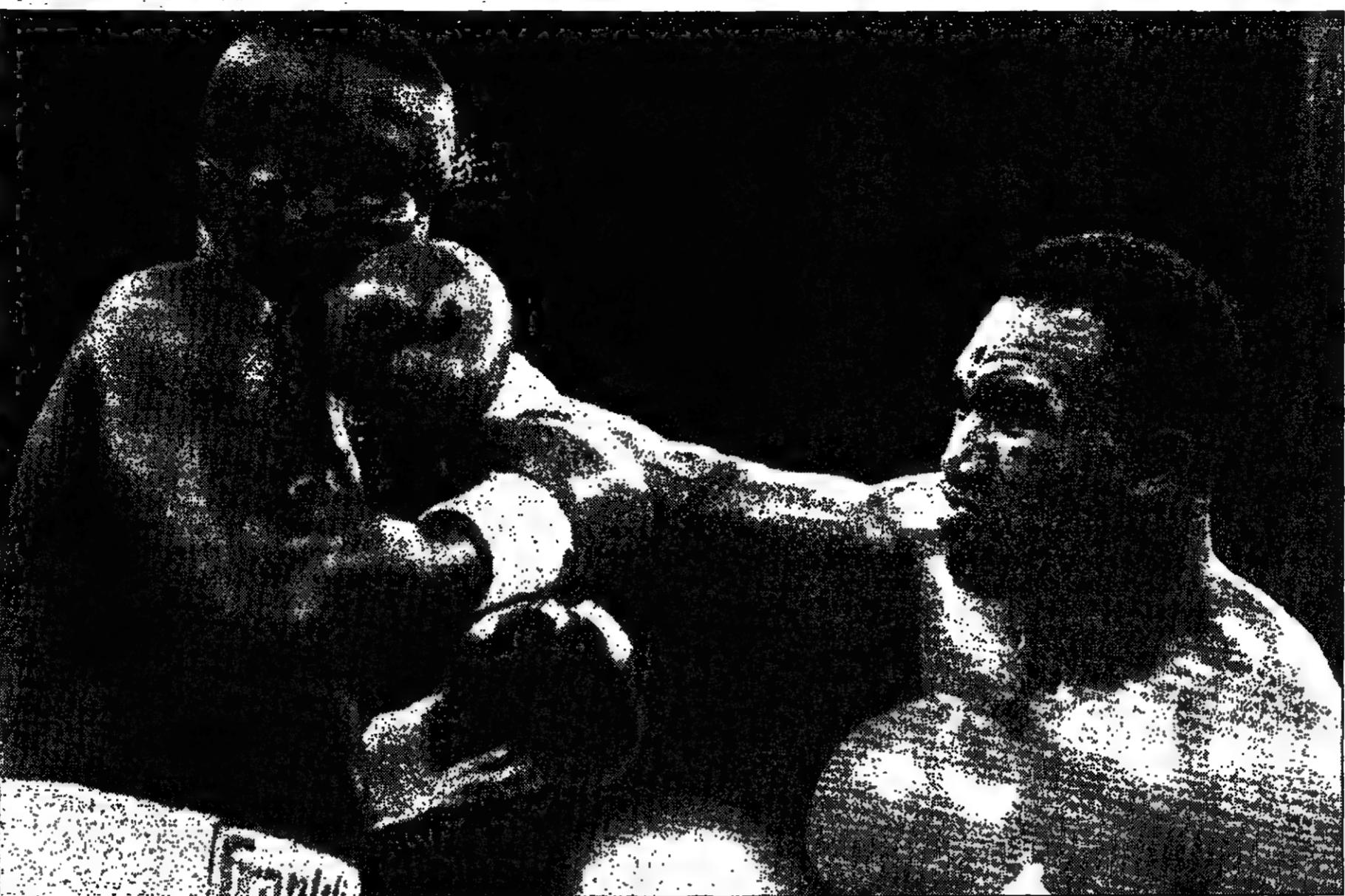
THE British invented down-hill racing but for years British competitors in the sport have been regarded as a bit of a joke. But as Brian James reports, Martin Bell (above) and others are bringing professionalism to the British approach. Page 28

### RACING

#### Dayjur dream

DAYJUR, the champion sprinter of Europe, takes on the best American speed horses in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Belmont Park, New York, today. The Dick Hern-trained colt heads a six-strong British challenge on the seven-race, \$10 million programme, the richest day's racing in the world. Page 33

# Holyfield snatches the title from a sleeping champion



The right that toppled the champion: Douglas takes a blow flush on the face from Holyfield, who followed up with a left to finish the contest in the third round

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
LAS VEGAS

JAMES "Buster" Douglas, of Columbus, who eight months ago became the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion with a "breathtaking" display against Mike Tyson, astonished us again yesterday. He lost the title to Evander Holyfield with one of the worst performances seen from a champion in that division.

Douglas was knocked out in the third round before a capacity crowd of 16,100 at the Mirage Hotel here. In those seven minutes and ten seconds of action, Douglas landed one blow, a clumsy right hand in the final round. He was too busy looking for an escape route to stay long enough in one place to land a discouraging blow on the advancing challenger who, at 208lb, was 38lb lighter.

Flushed with his one success, Douglas threw a right uppercut from what he thought was a safe distance, forgetting that an uppercut from out of range is dangerous to the thrower. He lost his balance and Holyfield, always within striking range, dropped his short right on Douglas's chin. "I saw him step in and he lowered his shoulder and I caught him with the right," Holyfield said.

Douglas fell sideways to the floor, rolled on to his back, lifted his head, wiped his forehead with his right glove and lay back again while Mills Lane, the referee, started counting. He closed sleepless eyes as if Lane was counting sheep. Later, Lane was to say: "He could have got up."

It was the type of performance that in England might have made

the boxing board withhold Douglas's purse pending an inquiry, but here, where "due process" dictates, Douglas went home with his \$24 million (about £12.3 million), the highest fee paid to a sportsperson.

Holyfield, who was only the second world light-heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight title — Michael Spinks was the first — was left with \$8 million and what could be seen in days to come as a hollow victory.

Even though he boxed well, continuously getting past the 52in reach advantage of Douglas, Holyfield's performance is in danger of being devalued. His critics will say Douglas was grossly overweight and did not train properly.

Two of the three world bodies that ordered the winner of the bout to defend against Mike Tyson within 120 days have changed their minds. Robert Lee, of the International Boxing Federation, said that so long as Holyfield meets Tyson within a year, he would be allowed to make a voluntary defence against George Foreman.

So inept was Douglas's performance that ringiders were still shaking their heads long after the loser had gone to his hotel to count his money. Eddie Futch, the trainer, who used to be in Joe Frazier's corner, was flabbergasted.

Foreman, Jimmy Bivins, of the World Boxing Association, said the WBA would be happy to receive a request from Holyfield to meet Foreman. He gave the champion a four-month extension beyond February 23.

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Two of the three world bodies that ordered the winner of the bout to defend against Mike Tyson within 120 days have changed their minds. Robert Lee, of the International Boxing

# British lions of the track must beware circus

FRANK Dick, the chief national coach of the British Amateur Athletic Board, who helped guide the British team to a record number of medals in the European championships in Split this year, is seriously concerned at the possibility of British sprinters becoming involved in contrived commercial promotions involving Ben Johnson.

Although he concedes that athletes are free agents, entitled to make their own judgment on ethical issues, Dick is worried at the possible damage that any such involvement may do to the image of the national sport and also of the individual. Britain have several international sprinters whom

promoters would be eager to entice into circus events, the most obvious being Linford Christie and John Regis, respective gold medal winners at Split in the 100 and 200 metres.

"From the athlete's point of view, money is money, and I understand that," Dick says. "A top competitor may not have a long life at a peak. But then there is the question of principle. I realise some people will ask who am I to talk about principle, when an athlete's financial career is involved. Yet I think everyone should look carefully at who will benefit, for whom such races are primarily staged. It is the promoters who are the most at fault."

The Eddie Edwards factor was a constant tight-lipped topic in the Austrian ski resort of Hintertux this week, where the British alpine ski team was testing its greater competence and equal nerve on the sheer icy pistes of the glacier. The resentment over the attention diverted to that famous non-achiever is based on hard reasons why Britain and winter sports are not terms always to be linked by a smirk.

One is Britain's historic role in creating the sport. Until the 1920s, Scandinavia dominated, insisting that only cowards and weaklings wanted to do anything else on skis other than jump off hills or yomp cross-country. It was Arnold Lunn and his British compatriots who formulated downhill racing. With no Lunn, there could have been no Klammer, no Killy, not even a David Vine.

Second is our lowland country's habit of producing the occasional racer with the grit to confound all probabilities and shoulder a place among the sport's best. The squad points to Martin Bell's Olympic tenth place in Calgary, when Britain, chuckling helplessly over Edwards, barely managed a "well done". Tenth Place? Worth applause?

Examine the arithmetic. On that day all the mountainous nations of the world, collectively calling on an élite distilled from hundreds of thousands who had been skiing since toddlerhood, could between them find only nine men who were better by fractions of a second than Bell, who had emerged from a cadre you could count on two hands.

Now comes a third reason to speak of British skiing with due respect. This week's assembly launched a new era of professionalism in preparation. It has been far too long in arriving. A decade ago British skiing was dominated by the well-intentioned and the well-heeled, when a social circle in Belgravia was seen as sole qualification for office: the needs of — often literally — hungry youngsters fighting up from a beginning on school

skis-trips or inner-city dry-slopes went unrecognised.

Change began when Tom Fitzpatrick became chairman and piled in to reorganise the British Ski Federation. From this season the sport is run by a 12-man board on which each of the home nations, each of the sport's disciplines and the athletes have a voice. Four months ago, Mike Jardine, a man with a background in the sport and experience of management, took over as full-time chief executive.

The money and *materiel* for back-up increases dramatically. Last week Drambuie extended its ski-racing sponsorship, promising £400,000 over the next two years. With 60 per cent income from the Sports Council, Britain's alpine team alone has a budget of £250,000. Austria has £25 million, but no matter: at least we can now be sure that our teams can stay in the Alps until the end of the season; older racers remember having to call home after each race to see if there was money in the kitty to proceed.

## ROWING

### Redgrave and Pinsent prepare to do battle

From RICHARD BURNELL IN TASMANIA

BRITAIN'S team for the world championships reached Lake Barrington last night, Thursday, after a 10-hour flight from Melbourne. Bruce Grainger, the new director of performance of the Amateur Rowing Association, yesterday described the time spent in Australia as "encouraging".

Marin Cross — bow in Britain's heavy-weight coxless four, gold medal winner in the 1984 Olympic Games and a junior world championship silver medal winner 15 years ago — said conditions were fair and promising.

If Cross, the perennial enfant terrible, has nothing to complain about after two days, one would reasonably expect to have to delve deeply to find anything seriously awry.

The best news is that the flagship of the British fleet, Steven Redgrave and his new partner, Mathew Pinsent, are said to be "on song" and ready for the fray. If Sunday's draw assists them on their course for a gold medal, the psychological effect on the team could be considerable.

## REAL TENNIS

### Male's double title bid

JAMES Male, the world rackets champion, and Mike Happell, of Australia, took the doubles title of the Hayman Island Classic in Melbourne by beating the Americans, Morris Clother and Simon Aldridge, in straight sets (Sally Jones writes).

Male today meets the world's

best in singles final in what promises to be a fascinating match.

RESULTS (Australian unless stated): Men's Doubles (100m) S Male/H. Happell (AUS) and M Clother (US) 6-0, 6-1; Women's Singles semi-final: K Tosteles (2) and G Williams, 6-2, 6-2. Doubles final: Tosteles and S Ebdon (AUS) 6-1, 6-0.

No. 1 amateur, Julian Snow, in an all-English singles final was a fascinating match.

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## COMMENT

DAVID MILLER  
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT



When Carl Lewis made his first appearance in Europe this summer, at Lausanne, he revealed, in an interview in *The Times*, that he would not be party to any such contrived events with Johnson: that any meeting between the two of them, once Johnson became eligible to race again, would have to be in a scheduled International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) event.

Johnson won the 100 metres final in the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988, was subsequently found positive in the mandatory drug test and overnight turned from hero to villain. He was suspended by the International Olympic Committee, his title removed, and he was sent home in disgrace by the Canadian Olympic Association. His world records were subsequently erased.

However, Johnson's suspension was for two years and last month he again became eligible to compete.

The Canadian Athletics Federation has accepted his reinstatement, and he is due to run his first race, indoors, at Hamilton, Ontario on January 11. He has several times proved negative in drug-testing in recent months.

Dick is of the opinion that athletes could have a big influence on future attitudes to drugs if they act in unison. "I think that athletes should stand strong on this, and not get involved," he says. "Linford confirmed to me, while I was speaking to him about other matters this week, that he has not said he will compete against Johnson in a special event."

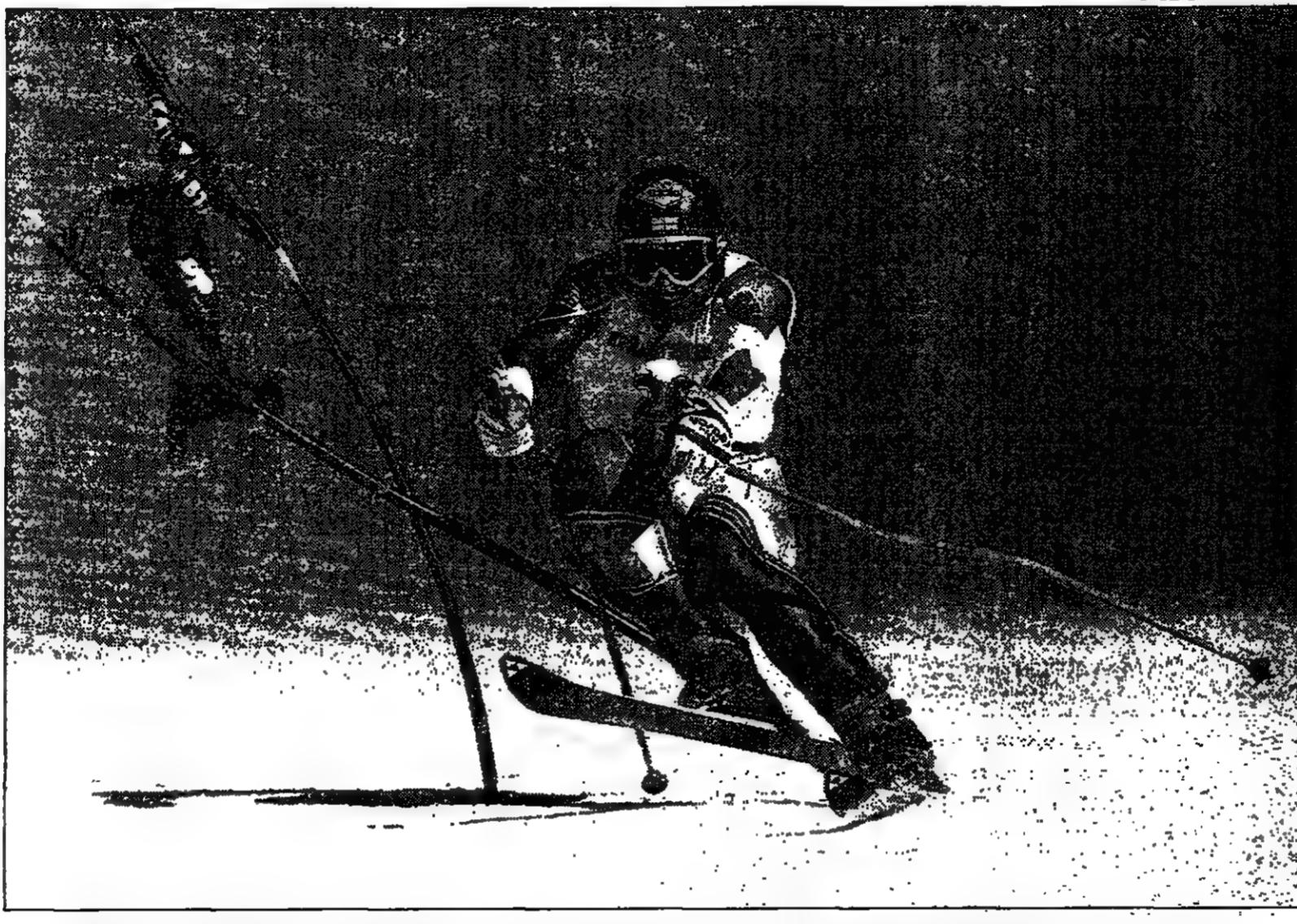
"If a British competitor is drawn against Johnson in an IAAF event, such as next year's world championships in Tokyo, Johnson having been officially reinstated; that is another matter. Go out and beat him."

There have been confusing stories that Christie might be in-

Brian James discovers that Britain is no longer sending in the clowns for the white circus

# Goodbye to class cap and alpine bells

RUDOLF BRANDSTÄTTER



Tolling the end of the ice age: Martin Bell, loosening up after his knee operation, warning to the task of putting Britain back on the skip map

WE now have five vehicles to carry the squads between races. Lesley Beck, our leading woman, recalls hitch-hiking between countries and cadding accommodation from other teams. We have a computer that will not only manage the budgets, but also provide on-the-slope data, showing at a key-race which skier performed best on what sort of snow and at what temperature and humidity. We have a video-camera with which to analyse technique — and a man to operate it and the radios which keep skiers on the start-line informed about conditions near the finish.

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## FOOTBALL

# Venables is spoiled for choice after Walsh strikes form

By CLIVE WHITE

**TERRY** Venables will this morning reveal the outcome of what he considers the most difficult decision he has had to make in his three years in charge of **Tottenham Hotspur**. The sudden return to form of Paul Walsh, though, has only given him the kind of selection poser which Kenny Dalglish, the former manager of Walsh, deals with almost week in, week out.

Venables will announce which two out of Gary Lineker, whose head-wound has largely healed, Paul Stewart and Walsh, who scored three times when recalled last Saturday, will play against **Nottingham Forest** today at the City Ground. This is unless he comes to the conclusion that since three into two cannot go, three into three

Walsh's career has stagnated since his £500,000 transfer from **Liverpool**, where he was fondly regarded as a Dalglish, scoring 25 league goals in 77 appearances. Before last season, he had scored just nine goals in 75 league appearances for **Tottenham** and started in only 12 games last season.

Venables remarked prior to the match against **Sheffield United** that he had never seen Walsh looking as sharp and it would be foolhardy to drop a player when he is quite so "hot". Stewart could be odd one out.

Despite past differences, the **Tottenham** manager has sent Brian Clough, his opposite number, a message of congratulations on reaching 25 years in League management.

Three players will be upmost, too, in the mind of Alex Ferguson, the **Manchester United** manager. The difference is that none of them can probably play again.

**Manchester City** at Maine Road, Michael Phelan is out with influenza, and Paul Ince and Denis Irwin are doubtful with a hamstring strain and knee injury respectively.

The likelihood is that United will use Mark Hughes in the midfield role in which he was deployed so successfully by Wales against Belgium two weeks ago. That would allow Robins and McClair to resume their recent partnership in attack.

Perhaps it is that search for recognition which has driven him on, despite a failure to achieve the ultimate accolade for any Englishman, the job of national manager. The offers from Bobby Robson of involvement in the England set-up were never likely to tempt him.

"It has clearly been his reasoning ever since an injury, at the age of 29, curtailed a playing career on the brink of fulfilment. Clough was one of the great goal-scoring machines of post-war football — 251 goals in 274 second division games. But the injury, in the same year that Sunderland gained promotion, denied him the opportunity of proving himself at a higher level.

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Howard Kendall, the City manager, did not envisage a repetition of that scoreline but predicted that "we will create chances". Quinn, who should have recovered from a facial injury, will be among those expected to exploit them.

• **Terry Fenwick**, the former England defender, plays his first League match since breaking a leg a year ago when he plays for **Leicester City** against Ipswich Town at Filbert Street today. **Tottenham** have loaned him to David Pleat, their former manager, for a month.

• **Howard Wilkinson**, the **Leeds United** manager, has asked the Scottish FA to investigate remarks attributed to Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, Roxburgh was quoted in a newspaper as saying that Gary McAllister is being asked by Leeds to play a style of game that is "totally foreign to him" at international level.

## TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

## First division

**Arsenal v Sunderland** Alan Smith (knee) passed a fitness test yesterday, so **Arsenal** are unchanged. With Anthony Smith recovered from concussion, **Sunderland** are also unchanged.

**Action v Leeds** With McGrath (knee) absent, and Connolly, his understudy facing a late fitness test (out), the hosts could be forced to revert to an orthodox back four. Duffy, a young defender, is the latest to join the squad. Those who are expected to re-unite Chapman and Verdi in attack and introduce Karmen to the midfield, are still without Haddock (Achilles tendon) in defence.

**C Palace v Wimbledon** Palace choose between Gray and Pardew in the midfield. Criddle (knee) is doubtful for **Wimbledon**. Blackwell is poised to return to the attack after an injury for his first game of the season.

**Liverpool v Chelsea** Whelan is fit and poised to

return for Liverpool. Chelsea are unchanged.

**Luton v Everton**

McDonough and James fit and join the Luton team. **Everton** faces a late fitness test for Everton, who are without McAllister (torn ligament) and Keown (doubtful).

**Man City v Man Utd**

With Quinn recovered from a facial injury, City are unchanged. Phelan (knee) is doubtful for United. McClaren is expected to drop back into the midfield, making room for Robins in attack.

**Notts v Totten**

Cough (ankle) is again absent from the Forest attack. Wilson (hamstring) is also sidelined, and could be the subject of a £500,000 move to **Norwich** next week. **Crossan** and **Starbuck** join the squad. **Tottenham** may partner Lineker and **Werner** in attack, omitting Stewart.

**QPR v Norwich**

Stapleton misses his home debut return for Liverpool. Chelsea are unchanged.

**Sheff Utd v Coventry**

Pemberton (back) and Hill (hamstring) are doubtful for United. **Coventry** faces a late fitness test (hamstring). Kilcline will replace Billing in the Coventry defence.

Emerson could start his first game since last Christmas.

**Southampton v Derby**

Dodd (right) faces a late fitness test for Southampton. Chedoke stands by to deputise at full back. Derby are unchanged.

**Second division**

**Millwall v Sheff Wed**

Millwall may strengthen their midweek squad following the midweek home defeat to **Bristol City**. Wednesday are expected to drop Hirst, making room for Franks or Whiston.

**Oldham v Notts County**

Ritchie returns to the Oldham attack after injury. Doncastre is preferred to Adams in the midfield. County are unchanged.

**Walsall v Bradford**

Walsall are unchanged. **Bradford** are without **McAllister** (knee) and **McClaren** (knee). **Walsall** are without **McAllister** (knee) and **McClaren** (knee).

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Walsall are unchanged. **Coventry** faces a late fitness test for **Derby**. **Derby** are unchanged.

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now." A club spokesman for Huddersfield AC said that of £120,000 a year spent on running the track only £25,000 was returned through customer use.

If clubs adopted a more professional edge through marketing, he said, the club would stand a better chance of striking a satisfactory specification arrangement with local councils. Tracks would then not go out to private management or be put up for sale.

They needed to ensure now that they were able to use their track when they wanted to, and to come to an agreement on charges. "This is running on for a lifetime," he said, and was trying to influence the specifications.

• **CLIMBING**: Chris Boardman is attempting tomorrow to become only the third rider in the 40 years of the event to win the British hill climb championship three times in succession.

• **BOXING**: Britain's Dennis Andrews will defend his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title against Australia's Guy Waters on December 8 in Adelaide or Sydney.

Steve McCarthy won the British light-heavyweight title when he beat Seng Fane on points at Battersby Town Hall on Thursday.

• **CRICKET**: John Maguire, aged 33, the Australian fast bowler, has joined Leicestershire on a two-year contract.

**RUGBY UNION**: Australia has invited South Africa for an official tour in 1991, provided the republic has been lifted.

• **SWIMMING**: Richard Maden missed breaking the school's record of Adrian Moorhouse by 0.02sec when he won the senior boys' 100m metres breaststroke title at the TSB English schools championships yesterday.

• **TAFFY**: A court in Frankfurt yesterday ordered Peter Graf, Steffi Graf's father, to give a blood sample to determine whether he fathered the child of Nicole Messner, who has filed a paternity suit against him.

• **BOARDSAILING**

Way on the verge of world triumph

before being overtaken by Lance Butler, of the United States. The condition of the course caused problems because several sailors had to stop to clear weed from their boards.

Way was left with no penalty points on the strength of five best performances, and led by more than 40 points from Wendy Thompson, of the United States, a former world champion.

Way, aged 28, and based at Christchurch, won the first race before being beaten by Maud Herbert, of France, in the sixth. Herbert led from the first mark, while Way pulled through the fleet from sixth to second

# Career landmark for the best manager England never had

CLIVE WHITE

**BRIAN** Clough continues to confound himself as much as his critics and supporters. When he won his first League championship with Derby County in 1972 he said: "I can't see myself doing this job forever ... I can't visualise myself still in the game at the age of 55." Clough was 55 last March.

It is hard to believe that money is any longer one of the chief motivating factors. Arguably the wealthiest employee in British football, he ended speculation that he was about to retire last month by agreeing to a three-year extension to the longest existing association between a manager and his club. Clough took over at Nottingham Forest in January 1975.

"I think he's a bit like myself," Peter Shilton, his first major signing for Forest, said this week. "He realises that football is his life and while he's still good enough to be involved in it, he might as well play on."

That has clearly been his reasoning ever since an injury, at the age of 29, curtailed a playing career on the brink of fulfilment. Clough was one of the great goal-scoring machines of post-war football — 251 goals in 274 second division games. But the injury, in the same year that Sunderland gained promotion, denied him the opportunity of proving himself at a higher level.

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The great survivor: Brian Clough, still going strong after 25 years of management

went around the town, to the factories and shipyards, shops and pubs, begging for donations to keep the club alive. I'd walk miles to see people, just to save a few phone calls.

Players had to share training gear. Latecomers went without. And we never bought new boots for them after Christmas in case they moved on at the end of the season. We saved on train and coach fares by using our own cars to away games.

Five of us went to Barnsley once in four cars for £203 10s — petrol, meals, the lot."

It was not until he joined Derby, with whom he first tasted success, that the legend was born. The brashness he had been forced to develop as a vulnerable young manager was eagerly seized upon by television, which was responsible for making him fair game for impressionists of all standards. "His public image isn't what the man is," Shilton said, "but he's had to live up to it. I think he's quite a sensitive and friendly decent down."

Like all the best partnerships, Clough's with Taylor was strictly business. "Brian was strictly business. "Brian came out of the City Ground and turned right for his home

in Derby and Peter turned left for Tipton." Clarke recalled. "But they had an almost telepathic understanding. They could manipulate people between them without even discussing it," he said.

They were never frightened by reputations, which they refused to accept at face value as in the case of Kenny Burns among others. They had a certain set of rules ... but they were not silly little rules. They didn't treat men like children. And we had some fiery characters in my time, people like Burns, Larry Lloyd and Archie Gemmill. There were players who didn't take to him but they all responded."

The same code of discipline, Clarke said, applied to all Clough's teams and the present one remains a shining example, both in its style and attitude. One could never imagine Forest players becoming involved in the kind of petulant brawl seen at Old Trafford last Saturday.

Clough insists his players do not argue with referees, or celebrate goals with kisses, although he has developed a habit in recent years of planting a farewell kiss on the cheek of those fellow man-

agers not quick enough to see it coming.

A psychologist could probably explain at least that part of his extrovert character.

Clough is now so contrary as to be predictable. One can

confidently forecast that he will celebrate today's anniversary, win, lose or draw against Tottenham Hotspur at the City Ground, with a fish and chip meal at home in front of the television. He has done so after winning the Littlewoods Cup in each of the last two seasons and would do so if ever he won the FA Cup, the only major domestic trophy to escape his clutches in 33 attempts as a player and manager.

His new contract should afford him a few more attempts, before he retires, to put that matter right. "The man's very presence will keep driving the club on to success," Clarke said. "He's got such a strong personality that he can rely on to do the job properly. He has a board of directors who are very mindful of what he has done for the club, which gives him a large degree of clout.

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He'll go on as long as he wants to go on. He does love the game, you can tell that the way his teams play."

The Football Association commission will sit next month to consider an appeal by Chesterfield against a £1,500 fine imposed on them for failing to turn up to their Rumbelows Cup tie at Hartlepool in September when a virus reduced their first team squad to nine fit players.

Jim Ryan, the manager of Luton Town, who saved themselves from relegation last season by winning their final match at Derby, has been rewarded with a new contract which replaces the one due to expire at the end of the season and includes a rise in pay.

The Football League have banned Cardiff City from buying and selling players because of an allegation that they owe money to players already on their books.

Brighton and Hove Albion have both rearranged games scheduled for November 7 to avoid a clash with live television coverage of Aston Villa's return game with Inter Milan.

# Liverpool get their priorities correct

By PETER BALL

THE European Super League will have to go ahead without Liverpool, at least in its latest format. Liverpool have refused an invitation to take part in a six-team tournament next summer involving Real Madrid and AC Milan, putting their players' needs above some rich rewards.

The tournament, a league leading to a final between the top two, is the latest in a series of schemes for a European league dreamt up by the Milan president, Silvio Berlusconi, which are geared as much to television and marketing interests as to football

## BASKETBALL

### Kingston prove a point in defence

By NICHOLAS HARLING

TO RESTRICT any team to 28 points in one half is praiseworthy; to limit opposition of the calibre of CSKA Moscow to such a meagre tally, as Kingston did in the second half on Thursday, says volumes for a defensive operation that may yet prove the foundation for the most spectacular success yet by a British club.

Kingston have been into the last eight in Europe before, in the Cup Winners' Cup two years ago, but never before in the Champions' Cup. But after their 9-77 success in the first leg of the second-round tie, a European Cup quarter-final place beckons in Moscow next Thursday if Kevin Cadle's squad can succeed where many others have failed.

Among them were Crystal Palace, after beating Real Madrid by eight points eight years ago, were blown away in the second leg. Similar lapses befall both Warrington (now Manchester) and Portsmouth after building up handsome leads against Liverpool, Italy, and the Yugoslavs from whom, respectively, Alan Byrd, who left Palace shortly before the trauma of Madrid, believes Kingston have little to fear.

"People tend to over-estimate the second leg," he said. "But you've got to remember that we have a lot of experience of playing away. We went to the title last year on the road and when we went to Den Helder in the last round, everyone said that five points wouldn't be enough, yet we won by ten."

Byrd (20 points) shared Kingston's scoring honours with Alan Cunningham (126) and Martin Clark (122), both of whom the players would dispute the coach's testimony that the team's resolution under their own basket proved decisive. "Moscow have some tough outside shooters but we did a great defensive job," Cadle said. "We didn't give them a whole lot of shots."

Although Cadle says he will be unhappy with anything less than another Kingston victory, he would undoubtedly settle for a defeat by 15 points before 5,500 Moscovites next Thursday. The experience will be a far cry from the inauspicious and cramped arena of Kingston's home at Tolworth.

**CHAMPIONS' CUP RESUME** Second round, first leg: Metz (FRA) 88-89; Paris 90-91; Salzburg (Austria) 81; Macao (Taipai) 88; Cadiz (Spain) 93; CSKA Moscow 77; Bayer Leverkusen 103; Muenchen (West Germany) 84; Valencia (Spain) 86; Heerenveen (Ned) 78; Barcelona 113; Zalaegerszeg (Hung) 102; Second Round: Pescara (Women) 84; Metz 85; Salzburg 85; Valencia 84; Heerenveen 85; Muenchen 85; (Austria) 86; Elektrosta Leningrad (USSR) 94; Stade (Paris) 81; Asturac (Spain) 87; Salzburg 88; Almeria 84; Universitatea Cluj (Romania) 84; Gaspesie 91; Salzak Zaragoza (Sp) 82; Den Haag (Neth) 85; Cesena (It) 97.



## GOLF

# Olazábal's talent is conspicuous in Ballesteros's absence

From MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, SOTOGRANDE

SEVERIANO Ballesteros might be absent but José María Olazábal and José Rivero provided the meagre Spanish following with much to celebrate in the Volvo Masters second round here in Spain yesterday.

Olazábal emphasised again his enormous talent with a 69 in which he did not drop a shot and Rivero, conspicuous by his absence from the leader board this season, clawed his way back from anonymity with a 65 which established a course record by two strokes.

Olazábal and Rivero share the halfway lead on 141, two under par, while Ballesteros relaxes at home. Ballesteros did not feel duty bound to compete, a decision Olazábal understood, although his absence coincides with the PGA European Tour announcing their intention to stamp out contentious payments to players.

Volvo's budget for the tour is put at about £7 million each year, although no provision is made for appearance money because the company does not pay it. That could be construed as the reason why Ballesteros is not playing. The tour is keen to erase the term appearance money from its vocabulary in 1991, when it intends to implement new conditions.

Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA

European Tour, said: "It is the people who pay who are the problem and they will face elimination from the tour if they are seen to contravene the new regulations."

Olazábal is one who could look forward to increasing his income from such payments, although he stressed that he would be satisfied if the money were added to the tournament fund. What drives him is the desire to emulate Ballesteros in winning a major championship.

The Valderrama course here sets the kind of examination which in the main brings the cream to the surface and Olazábal's golf from tee to green illustrated his immense skill and the reason for believing that it will not be long before he begins his major championship collection.

Rivero must accept that at 35 he will not reach the same heights as Ballesteros, although it would not be beyond him to win a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team next year. His controlled swing in the windy conditions allowed him to succeed on a course where many failed — the average second-round score was 74.2 — and for once this year his putter was a friend rather than a foe.

Sam Torrance, the first-round leader, took 73 to finish on 142 alongside the Australian, Mike Harwood (72), Ian Woosnam and Mark McNulty each finished on 146. "It's like a torture chamber out there", Woosnam said. "They should put us off the forward tees to give us a chance. It's a nightmare — the greens, bunkers, everything. If I had to play here every week I would quit the game."

Further progress seems to have been made on the Ryder Cup. On Monday Walker will make a statement concerning its participation and a meeting of the Ryder Cup committee has been arranged for November 29, by which time it is hoped that the PGA European Tour and the Professional Golfers Association will have agreed to work together.

SECOND round: 1. 141: M Orlitz (Fra) 76, J. Rivero (Spa) 76, 65: M Harwood (Aus) 70, 72; 3. 75: Torrance 69, 73; 143: 6. Larger (Fra) 72; 7. 71: Montoya (Col) 75, 65: S Richardson 71, 73; 145: M Marin (Sp) 72, 73; 4. Carrión (Spa) 73, 72; 5. R Davis (Aus) 74, 75; 6. R. R. Jones (Aus) 73, 72; 7. R Hartman (Aus) 74, 72; 8. R Chapman (Aus) 73, 72; 9. Ogle (Aus) 74, 72; 10. M Clayton (Aus) 73, 73; 11. C. Connor (Irl) 72, 74; 12. M Clark (Irl) 73, 72; 13. Woosnam 74, 72; 14. G Brand (Aus) 79, 68; 15. A. Lyle (Eng) 72, 74; D. Fawcett (Eng) 70, 71; 16. J. McIlroy (Eng) 74, 72; 17. J. S. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 18. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 19. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 20. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 21. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 22. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 23. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 24. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 25. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 26. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 27. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 28. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 29. J. T. Smith (Eng) 74, 72; 30. J. T. 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Executive Editor David Brewerton

## New bid for Caird ruled out

By MARTIN BARROW

THE Takeover Panel has rejected an appeal by Severn Trent, the privatised water company, against a decision preventing it from launching a revised bid for Caird, the waste disposal company, for at least 12 months.

Severn Trent had asked the panel for dispensation from Rule 35 of the Takeover Code, which blocks companies from renewing hostile offers within one year after they have lapsed, arguing that there had been a material change in Caird's financial position that had not been disclosed to the stock market.

Severn Trent's £78 million was conditional upon Caird reaffirming a profit forecast of £8.5 million before tax for the 18 months to the end of December. After the bid was announced Severn Trent's advisers acquired almost 30 per cent of Caird in the market.

Caird's defence document revealed that profits were unlikely to exceed £7.2 million. Caird shares subsequently fell from the offer price of 100p to below 50p.

The panel ruled that Severn Trent had acquired the shares before a new profit forecast had been issued, having declined Caird's offer to make available relevant financial information. "The very fact that Severn Trent included the profit forecast condition demonstrated its concern that it might not be met," the panel ruled.

### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.9555 (+0.0010)

German mark  
2.9606 (+0.0034)

Exchange Index  
94.8 (+0.2)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1598.4 (-19.1)

FT-SE 100  
2063.1 (-25.6)

New York Dow Jones  
2458.91 (-25.25)

Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
25005.64 (-34.99)

Closing Prices ... Page 39

Major indices and  
major changes Page 37

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%;  
5-month interbank 13.1% - 13.4%;  
6-month eurobonds 13.1% - 13.7%;  
US: Prime Rate 10%;  
Federal Funds 7.5%;  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.16% - 7.14%;  
30-year bonds 9.3% - 9.12%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
£ 1.9555 \$ 1.9550  
£ DM 2.9606 \$ DM 1.5159  
£ SwF 2.5111 \$ SwF 1.2905  
£ Frf 9.2711 \$ Frf 5.0731  
£ Yen 249.41 \$ Yen 128.00  
£ Dm 1.16.8 \$ Dm 1.16.6  
ECU £0.695020 \$Dm 0.35646  
£ ECU 1.438601 \$Dm 0.359349

### Gold

London Fixing:  
AM 377.30 pm 373.70  
CME 372.75 373.25 (1.1905-  
1.1910)  
New York:  
Comex 372.70-373.10

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec.) \$33.40/bbl (\$33.15);  
"Denotes latest trading price

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	£ 1.9555
Austria Sch	£ 1.9555
Belgium Fr	£ 1.9555
Canada \$	£ 1.9555
Denmark Kr	£ 1.9555
Finland Mark	£ 1.9555
France Fr	£ 1.9555
Germany Dr	£ 1.9555
Hong Kong \$	£ 1.9555
Ireland £	£ 1.9555
Japan Yen	£ 1.9555
Netherlands Gld	£ 1.9555
Norway Kr	£ 1.9555
Portugal Esc	£ 1.9555
South Africa Rand	£ 1.9555
Spain Pts	£ 1.9555
Sweden Kr	£ 1.9555
Turkey Lira	£ 1.9555
USA \$	£ 1.9555
Yugoslavia Dr	£ 1.9555

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Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

## IMITATION - JEWELLERY MERCHANTS - IMPORTERS IMPORTANT SPANISH FACTORY OF GOLD PLATED CHAINS, IS VISITING U.K. (LONDON), SHORTLY.

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Social highlight: Lady Brocklebank, the host

## Cypriots warn of assets block at Polly Peck

By MATTHEW BOND

THE Turkish-controlled authorities in northern Cyprus have given a warning that they will take action to prevent Polly Peck International assets and deposits being repatriated to Britain.

As the newly-appointed administrators began the task of stabilising Polly Peck by meeting directors at the company's Berkeley Square headquarters, Nazif Borman, north Cyprus finance minister, gave a clear warning:

"The Polly Peck subsidiaries in northern Cyprus will be protected. If any creditor bank wants to take away Polly Peck assets here, our government, the central bank, will intervene immediately."

Mr Borman appears to be concerned that the withdrawal of £140 million of Polly Peck deposits held in north Cyprus banks will spark the collapse of the unrecognised republic's banking system. "We have to protect their accounts and the rights of the deposit holders," he said. In addition to the cash deposits, Polly Peck also has huge citrus and packaging interests on the island.

We certainly would not force them to do anything. We want to explain what our obligations are in this administration, but until we do that it's very difficult."

Before being appointed

joint administrator to Polly Peck, Mr Stone led a Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte team investigating the company's finances on behalf of the company's increasingly anxious banks. That investigation was blocked by a court injunction obtained by eight local citrus growers and three members of a transport union. An appeal against that injunction, which also affected access to Meyna, the Turkish subsidiary, is not due to be heard until next month.

In Zurich, where Polly Peck shares are still traded, the price fell to 14p. A spokesman for the bourse said it had no plans to suspend them.

The Cypriot finance minister's comments were clearly at odds with the softly-softly approach adopted by the administrators on Thursday.

Richard Stone, one of the three administrators appointed by the High Court, said:

"We expect that we will get progressively more co-operation from the Turkish Cypriot authorities."

Mr Stone described a 45-minute meeting with Kenan Atakol, the Turkish Cypriot foreign minister, as fruitful.

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## Nomura in \$1bn talks with RTC

FROM JOHN DURE  
IN NEW YORK

NOMURA Securities is negotiating to buy \$1 billion in commercial lines from Resolution Trust Corporation, the main American savings and loan regulator.

The move is the first main indication of renewed Japanese interest in participating in the American savings and loan clean-up and is a boost to the administration.

In recent months, Japanese interest in American bonds has waned. This year, foreign interest in American markets has dropped with present indications showing a net withdrawal of more than \$20 billion in funds from American capital and equity markets. Last year there was a net inflow of foreign funds of \$30 billion.

American investors have also been investing more offshore as world investors look to higher interest rates in Japan and West Germany with less interest in the struggling American economy.

Spokesmen for both Nomura and RTC declined comment on the talks.

RTC has worked previously with Japanese investors with Greenwich Capital Market, a subsidiary of Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

Nomura, which has not shown interest in thrift related assets previously, in May repackaged \$1 billion in loans from American banks including Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, selling them through a Dutch subsidiary to Japanese, American and British institutions.

RTC has \$163 billion in assets, 70 per cent of which are in financial securities.

### Conrad loss

Conrad Continental, the leather clothing and fashion accessories company, has axed its interim dividend. Last time it paid 1p. The group dived to a pre-tax loss of £469,000 in the six months to end-June, compared with profits of £303,000. Turnover fell from £5.85 million to £4.36 million. There was a 3.55p loss per share, against earnings of 1.49p.

## Brent Walker value falls under £10m at low point

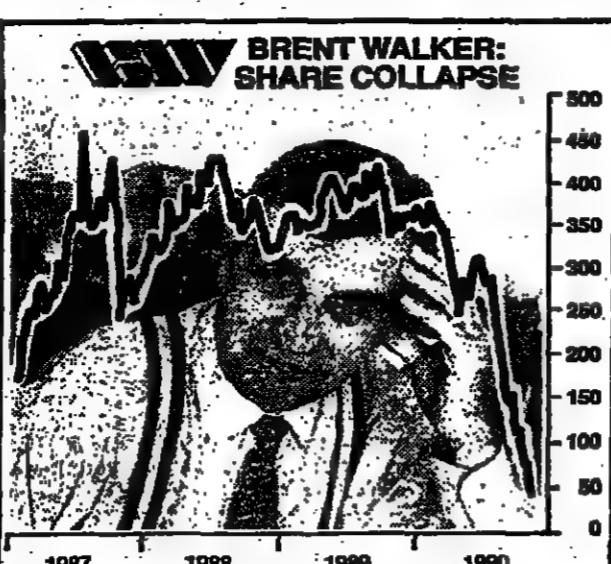
By MICHAEL TATE  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

The value of Brent Walker, the leisure group, slumped to less than £10 million at one point yesterday, amid speculation about its financial status.

Shares in Brent Walker whose interests range from the Brighton Marina to the William Hill betting chain, collapsed from an overnight 72p to 18.5p, recovering to 45p. At one stage this year they traded at 376p, valuing the business at £188 million.

The rumours were just some of many that were fanned back into life after the Polly Peck International collapse and which are now becoming a serious problem for the International Stock Exchange authorities.

As P&O confirmed it had



sought a stock exchange enquiry, reports were surfacing that the Serious Fraud Office was seeking to interview Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT. This was denied by the company, which also wants share dealings to resume.

Companies with serious debt problems are a prime target for such rumours, and Brent Walker fits the bill. On Thursday evening it was spotlighted by ITV's *The City Programme* as a company under pressure.

Brent Walker's debt problems are well documented. The interim statement published last month showed net debt at £1.15 billion and a gearing ratio that would be 112 per cent if not for the novel off-balance sheet financing of the William Hill acquisition.

A bout of what was described as panic selling followed, which was only

stopped after Smith New Court moved into the market to support the price.

The telephone lines between the stock exchange and Smith New Court hummed, but the broker rejected the suggestion that the shares should be suspended.

Smith New Court insisted that no new information was about to be published, and that it was not aware of any event that might be causing a fall in price.

Its assurances satisfied the stock exchange, although a routine investigation into yes-

terday's share dealings will be undertaken.

Meanwhile, ADT rejected suggestions contained in a House of Commons question tabled by Rhodri Morgan, Cardiff West MP, for Monday, that its chairman was the subject of an enquiry.

"Neither ADT, its chairman, nor any of its directors have had any contact with or approach from the Serious Fraud Office," according to the ADT statement.

Indicating that it had crossed swords with Mr Morgan before, ADT said it "will not be detracted by the abuse of parliamentary privilege in attempting to smear ADT or its chairman".

The statement added that trading in ADT's core divisions was "up to expectations" and that the balance sheet "remains one of the strongest of any service company".

The company said it was asking the stock exchange to investigate dealings in ADT shares in the time just before adverse market speculation. ADT shares dipped 5p to 103p.

The company announced it had taken advantage of the slide in the share price to buy 4.5 million of its own shares. "It will continue to use market opportunities in circumstances that ADT sees as advantageous to its shareholders," it said.

The statement added that the stock exchange, although a routine investigation into yes-

terday's share dealings will be undertaken.

The announcement can be read as a warning shot across the bows of a possible ring of "short sellers", or professional bear raiders, who have been driving down the price by encouraging speculation about the company.

P&O, led by Sir Jeffrey Sterling, has asked the stock

exchange to seek the source of the talk, which it said was "totally untrue and without foundation". One of the rumours P&O had to deny was that the Serious Fraud Office had raided the company.

Although the stock exchange does not comment on its investigations, it is understood that the request is being taken seriously and that dealings in the shares are being subject to close scrutiny.

In the market, shares had another volatile day, closing 4p higher at 489p, after falling 24p on Thursday.

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## STOCK MARKET

# Index slides by 25 points to below pre-ERM level

MARKET-makers had no shortage of reasons for cutting prices on a day which saw the FT-SE 100 index slump below the pre-ERM level for the first time. Dealers had no problems believing the gloomy warnings, post-Polly. Peck, that there could be at least eight "walking corpses" still roaming the stock market, corporate victims already clinically dead but not yet buried.

By mid-morning, the market thought it had spotted its first "zombie". Shares in the embattled Brent Walker tumbled to a quarter of their overnight level, 185p at one stage, before rising to 45p, but still a fall of 27p. The group has until early next week to announce the delayed terms of its controversial Euroconversion issue.

This share issue is seen as a lifeline for a company which, on the most conservative accounting principles, has gearing approaching 100 per cent. Doubts about whether the issue may be put in place in time started selling and only when the shares had hit bargain-basement level were buyers tempted in.

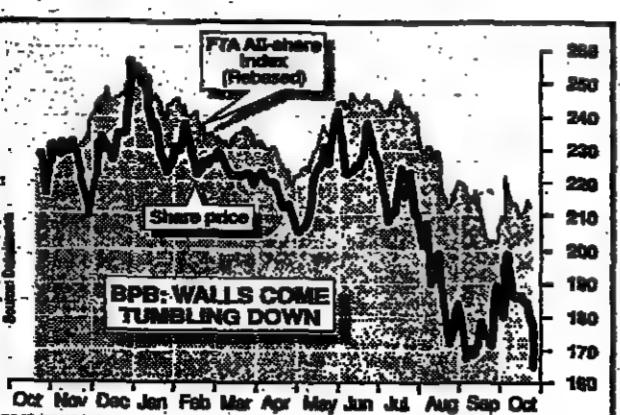
The fears knocked Power Corporation, a joint-venture partner with Brent Walker, falling 15p to 108p. Another affected was Grand Metropolis, locked in a bitter dispute with Brent Walker over the William Hill sale, 15p cheaper at 56p.

War fears

inevitably dominated after the hawkish noises from Washington. Also troubling the market were further oil price rises — although these were subsequently reversed — an overnight fall on Wall Street and signs that European interest rates were rising again.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 25.6 down at 2,063.1, against the level of 2,070 shortly before Britain joined the exchange-rate mechanism on October 3, while the narrower FT-30 index fell 19.1 to 1,593.4. Gilts fell by 16 of a point as hopes of cuts in interest rates subsided.

ADT, the Michael Ashcroft industrial services group, saw its shares go down after the news that Khodhi Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, had tabled a House of Commons question, asking whether



FT-SE All-shares in Pounds (Purchased)

Share price

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

BPB: WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

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Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your card for share price information on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure this page. If you have won a prize you have won outright or a share of the dividend price money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You may have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

PLATINUM

No.	Company	Group	Code or Symbol	High	Low	Open	Close	Vol.	Per
1	American	Chemicals	PLATINUM	100	98	99	98	100	100
2	TSW	Leisure		100	98	99	98	100	100
3	Water Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
4	Gold Greenleaf	Paper, Print, Adv.		100	98	99	98	100	100
5	Wohlenberg-Rink	Chemicals		100	98	99	98	100	100
6	Witneys	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
7	Woodside	Oil/Gas		100	98	99	98	100	100
8	Perkins Food	Food		100	98	99	98	100	100
9	Datsi	Electronics		100	98	99	98	100	100
10	Modena	Industrials L-R		100	98	99	98	100	100
11	Dunnes	Electronics		100	98	99	98	100	100
12	New Cavendish	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
13	P & O Dfl (am)	Transport		100	98	99	98	100	100
14	Wherry	Industrials S-E		100	98	99	98	100	100
15	Swindon Leisure	Leisure		100	98	99	98	100	100
16	Yorkshire Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
17	Hedgeridge	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
18	Polyphene	Industrials L-R		100	98	99	98	100	100
19	Hawker Siddeley (am)	Industrials E-N		100	98	99	98	100	100
20	PFC Hodson	Industrials L-R		100	98	99	98	100	100
21	Neosol Cat-W	Industrials E-N		100	98	99	98	100	100
22	Vivat Stores	Dept. Stores		100	98	99	98	100	100
23	Robinson	Industrials L-R		100	98	99	98	100	100
24	AAF Inv	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	98	100	100
25	Hightown Dist	Breweries		100	98	99	98	100	100
26	Corporal PLC	Building Roads		100	98	99	98	100	100
27	Waggon Inv	Industrials S-Z		100	98	99	98	100	100
28	Carroll Nicholls	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
29	BNB Res	Paper, Print, Adv.		100	98	99	98	100	100
30	Fiberty Group	Building Roads		100	98	99	98	100	100
31	Thames Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
32	Sirion Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
33	Wels Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
34	Anglian Water	Water		100	98	99	98	100	100
35	Edwards Gen	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
36	Evans of Leeds	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
37	Cassino	Property		100	98	99	98	100	100
38	Kode	Electricals		100	98	99	98	100	100
39	Br Vis	Industrials A-D		100	98	99	98	100	100
40	General Nat	Banks, Discount		100	98	99	98	100	100
41	Delays Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv.		100	98	99	98	100	100
42	Tay Homes	Building Roads		100	98	99	98	100	100
43	Kirkcaldy Benson	Banks, Discount		100	98	99	98	100	100
44	Clarkson (H)	Transport		100	98	99	98	100	100

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

## Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

100 100 100 100 100 100 100

There were no valid claims for the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The money will be added to Monday's prize.

## BRITISH FUNDS

1990 1st Qu. 2nd Qu. 3rd Qu. 4th Qu.

1st Qu. 2nd Qu. 3rd Qu. 4th Qu.

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Code	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990
1	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
2	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
3	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
4	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
5	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
6	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
7	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
8	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
9	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
10	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
11	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
12	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
13	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
14	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
15	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
16	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
17	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
18	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
19	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
20	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
21	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
22	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
23	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
24	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
25	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
26	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
27	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
28	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
29	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
30	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
31	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
32	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
33	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
34	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
35	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
36	TSW	100	98	99	98	100	98	100	100
37	TSW	100	98	99					

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

WEEKEND MONEY

**PERSONAL PENSIONS**  
**69% more pension fund for the same money.**

Someone retiring on 2 April 1990 would have been 69% better off with The Equitable Life than with the worst performer among our competitors, according to 'Planned Savings' most recent survey of 10 year regular contribution with profits personal pension plans.

In fact, since 'Planned Savings' began these surveys, The Equitable has been top of the tables more often than any other company.

Please remember that past performance cannot guarantee future performance.

Much of this pre-eminence derives from our outstanding investment performance. What is more we pay no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business. Nor are there any shareholders to nibble away at the profits.

If you're going to take out a pension, it makes sense to come to the company with a top track record.

Please contact us direct on (0296) 26226 or send in the coupon for further information by post and by telephone.

'Planned Savings' June 1990

MEMBER OF LAUTRO

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WATSON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7ER.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Watson Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7ER. I'd welcome further details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed. I am an employee not in a company pension scheme. I am

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Ms)  
 ADDRESS  
 Postcode: Tel (Officer)  
 Date of Birth: Tel (Home)  
 Family size:

**The Equitable Life**

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

**Portfolio**  
**PLATINUM**

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 38).

Price

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

Sunday

Price</p

# Winter bills fuel need to hold winning hand with credit cards

By Helen PRIDHAM

THE 1 percentage-point cut in bank base rates may be enough encouragement for some people to regain control of the family budget. But as yet there is little tangible benefit from the reduction. Many mortgages are subject to annual review and other loan rates show little sign of falling.

The pressure is greatest when the large winter bills come along. With little spare cash available, some borrowing or use of credit or store cards may be unavoidable. Banks may also suggest the use of a budget account or revolving credit plan, but other options should be considered first.

Bank budget accounts were popular in the Seventies. The customer lists all expected expenditure throughout the year, such as gas, electricity, community charge, water rates, insurance and telephone bills, and then divides the total by 12. The resulting figure is the amount that should be paid into the account each month. As the bills arise they are paid out of the account, which is sometimes in credit and sometimes in debit but by the end of the year, in theory, balances out.

A number of banks still offer these accounts, such as Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland. John Mayers, of the Royal Bank, said: "Nowadays these accounts are less attractive because many household bills, such as the poll tax, insurance premiums, gas and electricity bills can be spread over the year anyway - often at little or no cost."

The bank budget account may still appeal to couples



who live together and want a shared household account.

A more flexible approach is the revolving credit account.

With this type of scheme the amount that can be borrowed is a multiple of the amount the customer is prepared to pay in each month. The maximum multiple is normally 30.

Someone who pays in £25 each month, for example, would have a credit limit of £750. A cheque book is supplied and standing orders and direct debit facilities are available to meet any sort of bill.

The advantage of revolving credit is that it allows customers to pitch repayments at an affordable level. The disadvantage is that on top of the

interest payments when overdrawn, there is either a monthly fee or bank charges on each standing order or cheque written.

Many store cards also operate on the lines of revolving credit accounts. There are several disadvantages to store cards, especially for those working to a tight budget. They tend to discourage customers from shopping around for the best bargain and the interest rates charged are usually higher than the mainstream credit cards.

The Burton Group, for example, currently charges an annual percentage rate (APR) of 38.4 per cent. Customers with more than one plastic

card may find it progressively harder to keep track of debts.

An increasingly popular alternative is the budget credit card.

Barclays introduced its Ascent Mastercard in March last year, which can be used like an ordinary credit card but card holders select a monthly payment of £1.6 and £300 and are given a credit limit of 25 times that amount. The monthly payment date can also be chosen by the card holder. The bank says that more than 100,000 applications have been received for Ascent.

Ascent has tended to appeal to younger people. The average age of a card holder is 34. A customer wanting to spread payments over, say, three to six months, will find that an ordinary credit card could still work out cheaper.

## BRIEFINGS

### POTENTIAL electricity shareholders

who apply for shares through Sharelink's special service before November 14 will be able to sell their stakes on the first day of dealing for as little as £5. Investors can pre-arrange for Sharelink to sell their shares as soon as official dealing begins, either at a pre-selected limit, costing a maximum of £7.50, or at "best", for £5.

The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society will charge shareholders a flat rate of £12, discounted to £8, if their application for electricity shares is lodged through the society. A £1 donation will go to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The Halifax Building Society is launching a new service for expatriates wanting to buy a home in back in Britain. The service provides property-finding and residential letting

and management facilities, as well as the society's international expatriate mortgage, which has previously only been available to customers living in Hong Kong.

Midland Bank is to lower interest rates on its Orchard, Vector and Meridian accounts by 1 per cent from November 1. Orchard will now pay a maximum of 6.25 per cent on sums of £1,000 or more. Vector will pay 7.0 per cent and Meridian will pay up to 8.75 per cent on £2,000 or more.

The Leamington Spa Building Society is cutting rates to new borrowers a further 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent, having already lowered rates 0.9 per cent earlier this month.

A new fixed-rate mortgage set at 12.95 per cent (APR 13.80 per cent) for the first year is being made available in endowment or capital-

and-interest form by the Leeds Permanent Building Society.

■ The Scarborough Building Society's new Early Start Discount is now offering a fixed repayment rate of 12.25 per cent for first-time buyers until May 1991, when interest will revert to the society's prevailing variable rate.

■ Prospero, the direct insurer, is offering a 20 per cent discount on its newly-revised house and contents policy to customers taking out home insurance for the first time, and a 10 per cent discount for customers over the age of 50. The policy operates on a £30,000 total claims limit.

■ Investors who register with the Nottingham Building Society before December 7 and subsequently open a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) before April 5 will receive a

bonus 1 per cent interest on the first year's contributions.

■ Confederation Life Insurance, in conjunction with Confederation Bank, has launched a five-year Tessa account that combines the tax advantages with life cover. In the event of a saver's death, an amount at least equal to the value of the account at the time, plus additional life cover, will be paid out. Interest on the account will be guaranteed at 12.25 per cent gross.

■ MIM Britannia is to accept annual direct debits of £50 or more on its Rupert Children Trust, ranked fourth out of 202 UK growth funds for the 12 months to October. The £3.5 million fund already offers investors the option of either a lump sum investment (minimum £50) or a regular savings plan (minimum £10 per month).

## COME INTO SOME MONEY?

Inherited wealth or a golden handshake can be as much a burden as a blessing.

Spending all of it would leave you no better off than you were before, while investing some of it could make you a tidy nest egg.

The question is, where?

Historically, investments linked to the Stock Market have comfortably outperformed most savings accounts over the long term.

But there isn't a warning on investment advertising for nothing: the value of the money invested can go down as well as up, and past performance is no guarantee for the future, so getting reliable advice is crucial before you commit yourself and your money.

It makes sound sense to get financial advice that's independent.

To help you find the right adviser for you, with whom your initial consultation could well be free, we've put together a booklet about the benefits of advice that's independent, a checklist of things to look out for when choosing an adviser and a list of independent financial advisers near you.

To get your information pack about financial advice that's independent, phone 081 200 3000 today, or complete and send the coupon below.

To: IFA Press/Sales Limited, Unit 3, Air Cell Business Centre, Colindale Lane, London NW9 5EW.

Please send me a list of ten independent financial advisers, convenient to my home or work address, below.

WE GUARANTEE THAT NO SALESMAN WILL CALL OR PHONE YOU AS A RESULT OF THIS COUPON

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE STATE POSTCODE

## BRADFORD & BINGLEY (DOUGLAS) LTD NEW RATES OF INTEREST FROM 1st NOVEMBER 1990.

Scheme	Gross % p.a.
MAXIMISER Independent Account (£5,000-£24,999)	14.00
(£25,000 plus)	14.50
MAXIMISER Independent Income (£5,000-£24,999)	13.25
(£25,000 plus)	13.75
MAXIMISER Independent Access	13.00
MAXIMISER Independent Bond*	15.00

Interest rates are variable. \*Account no longer available. Exclusively for UK Residents.

**BRADFORD & BINGLEY (DOUGLAS) LIMITED**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: FIRST FLOOR, 9 BRIDGEWAY STREET, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.

TELEPHONE 0624 62860. FAX: 0624 62912.

## BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S INVESTMENT RATES FROM THURSDAY 1st NOVEMBER 1990.

Scheme	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.*
Ordinary Account	6.00 (6.09 CAR)	8.00 (8.12 CAR)
Deposit Account	5.50 (5.57 CAR)	7.33 (7.43 CAR)
MAXIMISER Bonus Account (£1,000-£9,999, including full bonus)	10.00	13.33
(£10,000 plus, including full bonus)	11.00	14.67
MAXIMISER Option 1 (Regular Income)	9.58	12.77
MAXIMISER Option 3 (Regular Income)	9.58	12.77
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Regular Income)	11.35	15.13
Flexible Savings Account (including full bonus)	7.00	9.33
Flexible Savings Account - Special Issue (including full bonus)	10.00	13.33
S.A.Y.E. (7 years equivalent return)	8.62	11.49
High Yield S.A.Y.E. (7 years equivalent return)	9.63	12.85
TIME SAVER Account (£1-£49)	6.00	8.00
(£50-£999)	7.00	9.33
(£1,000 plus)	8.00	10.67
Gross % p.a.		
MAXIMISER Overseas Account	—	12.94
MAXIMISER TAX PLAN Account	—	13.75
Scheme	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.*
MAXIMISER Income* (£1,000-£4,999)	9.00	12.00
(£5,000 plus)	9.36	12.77
MAXIMISER Growth* (£5,000 plus)	10.08	13.41
MAXIMISER Top Rate* (Income)*	10.46	13.95
MAXIMISER Two Year Bond* (Income)*	11.25	15.00
MAXIMISER Elite I* (£1,000-£4,999)	10.08 (10.21 CAR)	13.41 (13.59 CAR)
Elite II*	11.50	15.31
Elite III*	11.78	15.67
Elite IV*	11.93	15.10
Premium Access (Issue 1)*	8.09 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR)
Premium Access (Issue 2)*	9.23	11.00
Real Gold (including bonus)*	8.90 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR)
Extra Interest*	8.09 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR)
Extra Income*	8.09 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR)
High Income*	9.13 (9.33 CAR)	12.17 (12.44 CAR)
High Interest*	9.58	12.77
Acorn/Classmate*	6.00 (6.09 CAR)	8.00 (8.12 CAR)
Holiday Saver (including full bonus)*	7.00	9.33

CAR = Compounded Annual Rate. \*Ammounts to interest available. Interest rates are variable. \*\*The Gross Equivalent Rates assume that Income Tax is paid at the basic rate of 25%. \*Excl. Extra Income from 1st December 1990. All interest rates have been reduced. For details of other accounts, please contact your local branch.

**BRADFORD & BINGLEY**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

HEAD OFFICE: PO. BOX 2, BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE BD16 2LW. REGULATED IN THE CONDUCT OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS BY SIB.

## THE GT GERMANY FUND YOU CAN SHARE IN GERMANY'S FUTURE FOR £30 A MONTH.

### NOW MUST BE THE RIGHT TIME TO SIGN UP.



If you had invested £30 a month since launch, your money would be worth £2,365 at 3.99 - on a total investment of £1,770. (Offer to bid, income reinvested. Source: Micropal.)

Past performance is not a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them can fluctuate. To find out more about how you can benefit from regular saving in the GT Germany Fund and to obtain scheme particulars, please return the coupon below.

To Lucy Founess, Client Services Department, GT Unit Managers Limited, FREEPOST, London EC1S 2DL. Telephone 071 283 2575. Please send me details of the GT Germany Investment Account.

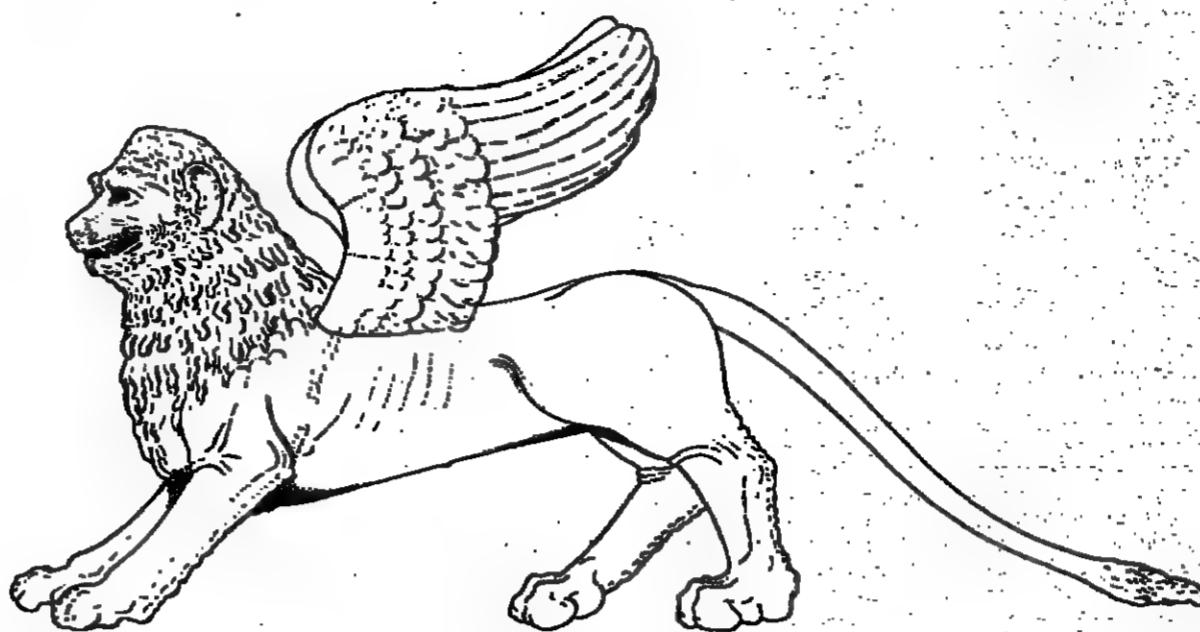
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TEL 071 283 2575

GT Unit Managers Limited is a member of EMRO, LAUTRO and the UTA.

GT UNIT MANAGERS LIMITED



# The Fiat Group is proud to have been associated with the recent State visit to the United Kingdom of President Francesco Cossiga of Italy



## THE LION OF VENICE

The Lion of St. Mark was brought to London by Fiat  
for an exhibition at the British Museum.  
Officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
in the presence of President Cossiga,  
'The Lion of Venice' exhibition runs until the 13th January 1991.



## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Furthermore, the recent endowment by Fiat  
for the Fiat-Serena Professorship of Italian studies at Oxford University  
was inaugurated this week by the Italian President.

Fiat has been present in Britain since 1903 – just four years after its founding.

Today the Fiat Group in Britain comprises 25 companies  
in diverse sectors including automobiles, commercial vehicles, farm  
and earthmoving machinery, automotive components,  
lubricants, financial services, bioengineering, civil engineering,  
chemicals, fibres, robotics and advanced research.

# FIAT

The Fiat Group

Fiat UK Ltd, Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AL

## WEEKEND MONEY

## LETTERS

## Doubts about the wisdom of deposit insurance

From the professor of personal finance, City University Business School

Sir, Your editorial on October 20 called for "More (investor) protection not less". I do not wish to comment on the specific incident which triggered this remark, but there should be serious doubt about the wisdom of your general conclusion. Safer returns for investors are obviously a desirable goal; however, there is a danger of ignoring the wider economic effects of deposit insurance.

Deposit insurance can have the effect of removing the incentive of investors to monitor what is happening to their own money. As a result it can encourage investment firms to offer higher returns by opting for riskier investment strategies. Additionally, it can make funds easier since the investor is less reluctant to part with funds and is more easily attracted by offers of

high rewards. This is an important element in the current US deposit insurance disaster. The insurance premium has to be paid by somebody: in the UK the safe and prudent firms are being required to subsidize the marginal and potentially fraudulent. There is a general benefit to investment firms from raising confidence in the industry but this benefit is heavily offset by the cost of funding the deposit insurance scheme. An actuarially sound insurance scheme would charge relatively high premiums to the less credit worthy. Regulators do not have the appropriate incentives to monitor risk since their own money is not at stake.

Investment is a risky business. Investors should not be encouraged to believe that their capital has some kind of gilt-edged guarantee. No deposit insurance scheme should offer 100 per cent insurance.

Yours sincerely,  
K. Alec Chrystal,  
Professor of Personal Finance,  
City University Business  
School,  
Barbican Centre,  
London EC2.

## Abbey the bank that can still think like a building society

From Mr R.F. Coopers

Sir, As you state in your item last Tuesday (October 16), the Abbey National acts like a bank when adjusting mortgage rates, particularly the recent reduction of 0.75 per cent compared to the more usual 0.9 per cent by other institutions.

However, the Abbey National follows the building society practice on repayment mortgages, basing interest paid on the amount outstanding on January 1 each year, depriving the borrower of interest on the capital repaid monthly. Banks use a daily basis for their interest calculations.

I suggest intending borrowers bear in mind this best of both worlds policy when

selecting their source of finance. Alternatively, concerted action by mortgage brokers, solicitors and other financial brokers informing the Abbey of their reluctance to recommend the bank to clients, might persuade the Abbey to decide to which type of institution it belongs.

Yours faithfully,  
R. F. CONYERS,  
38 Bell Crescent,  
Longwick, Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire.

From J. M. Agar  
Sir, I too have an Abbey National current account. I use this with Co-operative Bank Visa which is almost unique in accepting settlement of the whole monthly balance

by direct debit. After writing two unexpected cheques, I transferred funds by ATM on the afternoon before the direct debit was due, from a savings account into my current to "profit from Abbeylex flexibility" (their phrase).

I subsequently received a letter warning me I was overdrawn and threatening the consequences. Although my statement shows I had a cleared credit balance throughout of over £160 the bank has not apologised and a clerk confirmed had the sums been larger they would have "bounced".

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. AGAR,  
8 Highfield View,  
Gildersome, Leeds.

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**A**t long last lenders and brokers who prey on people in debt, persuading them to take out riskier loans than those already troubling them, are to get their come-uppance. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, has threatened to put firms marketing credit to those who already have serious debt problems out of business.

People faced with court proceedings over credit card debts or hire purchase payments are so desperate that they do not ask whether there is a hefty broker's fee to take out a new loan. They do not ask what the annual percentage rate of interest is. They are only concerned to solve their problems. They are easy targets for unscrupulous salesmen, particularly at this time of year.

The credit broker earns more if he lends more, so people in debt are not only offered enough to pay off their existing loans but they are often encouraged to borrow more. The monthly payments may be lower because the loan is over a longer period. The salesman may also suggest taking on an extra few hundred pounds

## High noon for the cowboy loan arrangers

"to give the kids a nice Christmas" or to "have a bit of a break after all you've been going through".

A number of firms have already received letters from the Office of Fair Trading warning that if they are to keep their consumer credit licences they must encourage sensible borrowing of the right type of credit on the right terms. Those already warned are lenders and brokers who are known to use mailing lists of debtors with County Court judgments against them to sell loans and who target people with debt problems in their advertisements.

The OFT wants to see "fair and constructive arrangements" for dealing with arrears. Too often people worried by the threat of court proceedings from a credit card company or other finance house have taken on loans that put their home at risk without realising so. Courts cannot make people pay more than they can



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

afford, but most people are terrified of such a threat and a friendly-sounding secured loan seems the answer. The solution can be very short-lived. If the payments on the new loan are not kept up then the family home may be forfeit.

Companies may not wait long before they pursue their money through the courts. Unlike the major banks and building societies, who will try for months to help borrowers in trouble to meet their payments, other lenders tend to repossess early.

The next step is for the OFT to make a public example of a lender who encourages people to take on what they cannot afford.

or is careless of whether their customers are able to pay. The lenders have the security of knowing they can evict them if they do not pay. In the meantime they earn handsome returns on their money.

### Chase chase

**F**ormer Chase Manhattan private stockbroking clients who were sold to Stock Group at the beginning of the year are being given the run-around. Their money has been frozen since the beginning of June and it appears no one wants to help. One investor spent a

whole day on the telephone this week trying to find out why she could not obtain a claim form from the banking depositors protection scheme, like other investors with money stranded in the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank.

She was eventually told that she was at a disadvantage because she had been transferred from Chase and had not signed a letter of authorisation for Stock Group to deal for her. She could not, therefore, make a claim on the fund, which can pay out up to £15,000 per individual.

Most other investors with the merchant bank have been able to make claims since August 9 following the creditors' meeting.

Some direct investors received their first payments on September 14. But former Chase clients are told to consult Stock Group.

At Stock Group, a spokesman said they were not responsible for helping clients to obtain money from the bank scheme. He said

that The Securities Association, Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers' Regulatory Association and the Bank of England should help investors.

The Bank of England says it needs details from the brokers who deposited money on behalf of clients. It needs their names and addresses and information on deals done. No money could be paid until this information is sent.

Stock replies that in order to do this they need to know exactly what the bank wants and they do not.

The Securities and Investments Board says it is not its problem either, although a broker is involved. No client money has been lost. It has "only been frozen" it says. Investors who have not had access to their money for almost five months see it differently.

They are worried about the safety of their money and exhausted by the battle they are having in trying to get access to it. The excuses are wearing thin. Someone ought to make sure that they receive some money, and quickly.

## Desperately seeking Baku

By RICHARD IRVING

**R**ELATIVES of the British royal family and peers of the realm are among a group of British shareholders about to receive more than £3 million in compensation from the Soviet government.

The investors were all shareholders of a company whose assets were seized after the Russian Revolution.

Baku Consolidated Oil-fields was incorporated in 1919 and had assets in the oil producing region of Baku in Azerbaijan, now part of the Soviet Union. The company's assets were confiscated by the Red Army in the Twenties in the aftermath of the Russian revolution. The company was wound up by the High Court in London in 1943.

Although assets realised outside the Soviet Union were sufficient to pay the company's creditors, shareholders have been lobbying both the British and Soviet governments for compensation for more than 70 years.

Now, the Foreign Compensation Commission, which was set up after *perestroika* to



Shareholder search: Peat Marwick's John Alexander

distributes funds paid over by the Soviet Union, has authorised a payment of more than £3 million to KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, liquidator of the company.

The problem facing John Alexander, partner at the firm, is to try and locate Baku shareholders. "When its assets were confiscated in the 1920s the company had 21,000 shareholders who will now, for the first time, be entitled to receive a return on their investment. My task is to trace these

shareholders or their heirs."

Letters to shareholders have been sent to the last known addresses but many are being returned to Mr Alexander's office unopened.

Nevertheless, more than 250 people have already proved their entitlement to compensation.

Anyone with shares in the company should write to: John Alexander, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, PO Box 730, 20, Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP.

## Lautro draws a veil over the guilty

**A**TOTAL of 12 life assurance and unit trust companies have been told that their sales procedures fall short of industry rules. It follows a recent check by inspectors from the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) on member companies to ensure rules on advertising brochures, salesmen's visits and telephone calls are being obeyed.

But Julia Liesching, Lautro's chief policy and administration officer refuses to bow to public pressure to name names, maintaining that the rules have not been flagrantly flouted and investors have not been put at risk: "It's all a question of balance," she says. "We will of course publish names where the disciplinary committee orders

a public reprimand or where the interests of investors have been jeopardised, but where companies have voluntarily co-operated to change questionable procedures, there is no risk to the investor so nothing can be gained by a public airing.

The disclosure comes in a week when Lautro announced the publication of an advice leaflet for investors who wish to complain at the methods used to sell them life assurance or unit trust policies.

The guide covers financial products such as endowment policies, investment bonds, unit trusts and pensions.

Disgruntled investors should first write to the compliance officer of the company or friendly society whose product was recommended.

the guide says. Under Lautro rules, the member company must arrange for the complaint to be investigated properly and a report to be made within two months.

If the complaint drags on, investors can seek the help of the insurance ombudsman. In certain circumstances Lautro may itself investigate complaints.

Lautro receives over 300 complaints each month. Those which relate to matters covered by the organisation's rules are passed on to Lautro members for action.

The new leaflet can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Complaints Department, Lautro, Canterbury House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 9XE.

## RETIREMENT Five key facts

- Once you've retired, your concern is going to be how to generate income as well as growth to provide an eventual rise in income to protect your standard of living.
- Statistics show that these days people are living longer than ever. A man aged 60 can expect to live until 77, a woman aged 55 until 81. So your financial planning must take this into account.
- If you put all your capital on deposit with a Building Society and take the interest as income, the value of your capital, in real terms, must fall.
- Over the long term, only a sensible mix of equity and fixed-interest investments can hope to deliver high income, capital growth and real security in retirement, even taking into account the fact that the value of your investments will go up and down depending upon stockmarket volatility.
- Today, more than ever, you need sound, independent, specialist professional advice.

We are Britain's largest retirement income specialists and act on behalf of thousands of clients from our offices throughout the country. So why not talk to us now? Return the coupon or telephone us on 071-408 1138.

\*Source: Government Actuaries Department.

**Knight Williams**  
Britain's  
Largest Retirement  
Income Specialists

To: Knight Williams & Company Limited,  
161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA.  
Please send me details of Knight Williams' service to  
private clients and a copy of 'Self-Defence in Retirement'.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
I am retired. I plan to return in \_\_\_\_\_ months.

## Public help for pension private eyes

**B**RITAIN'S amateur pensions detectives are about to receive official help. From next April, a government-sponsored pension-tracing service will come into being, enabling the 12 million people in occupational pension plans to track down money paid into schemes since 1975 (Lindsay Cook writes).

On average, people with pension schemes change jobs four-and-a-half times during their working lives. Many lose touch with their former companies and fail to take up the benefits built up in those plans.

But next month, the government will announce details of its pension tracing service. It will be run by the Occupational Pensions Board and will deal with entitlements built up in 400,000 occupational plans. A register of all current schemes will be set up to make tracing easier.

Pensions built up before 1975 will, however, fall outside the scope of the board. Volunteer help will still be needed to trace such money.

Grift Shepherd is the Philip Marlowe of pensions, an amateur sleuth who spends months tracking down pensions for people who left jobs as long as 40 years ago. He works as a volunteer tracer for the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, a London charity.

He tries to find any pension entitlement, however long ago it was earned. He normally has five or six cases in hand at any time, and estimates that it usually takes three to five months to find the money.

"Tracing a pension benefit is long and complicated. Many people have moved from one part of the country to



another and have no records of their pension with a company. To make matters worse, many of the company records prior to 1975 are not computerised," he said.

"I turn no one away and I manage to find a pension in about 80 per cent of cases. Sometimes I put an advertisement in the lost and found column of a pensions magazine to see if anyone knows what happened to a particular scheme."

One of Mr Shepherd's more difficult cases involved a woman who worked in Newcastle upon Tyne between 1958 and 1964. She moved to Wolverhampton and thought she was entitled to a pension for the six years she had been with the Newcastle company.

Mr Shepherd doubted that she would have a deferred pension. In

those days many people took a refund of payments instead.

She had no written records and because she had left in 1964 knew that employees did not always get a piece of paper when they departed. Entitlements were often in people's memories.

"The first thing I ask is if the person has kept in touch with any of their old colleagues. If such a colleague is now drawing a pension, the chances are that he or she will be able to put me in touch with the pension scheme."

In this case it was not so easy, and after exhaustive research Mr Shepherd placed a small advertisement to see if anyone knew the whereabouts of the scheme. One of the five respondents correctly identified Legal & General as the operator, and Mr Shepherd was able to tell the woman from where she could claim her small fixed pension.

In most cases the trail is long and involved. "I go to Companies House and see what the receivers did in the case of companies after liquidation. They should have employed the same care in looking after the current and deferred pensions."

"I also get a lot of help from the Department of Social Security in Newcastle."

The Newcastle upon Tyne office handles claims for the state graduated pensions scheme that operated from 1961 to 1975. The records of graduated benefit entitlement often also carry the name of the company operating the pension.

Mr Shepherd was group pensions manager at Grand Metropolitan from 1970 until 1983. Since he started his

slush fund, he has been called upon to find GrandMet pensions, and those for former ICI staff where he also worked. "It is seldom difficult to identify deferred pensions in the bigger schemes. It is with the smaller ones that disappear where the trouble lies."

"Most of the people looking for pensions are approaching retirement," said Mr Shepherd, and almost all of them involve pre-1975 entitlements.

The government announced last November that it was to introduce a pensions tracing service. Neville Teller, the secretary and controller of the board, said that a draft consultative document had been published and was being substantially revised following responses.

Mr Teller said it was proposed that former employees should fill in a form giving details of the employment and pension scheme and send it to the pensions register. They would not need documentary evidence of employment to make a claim.

It would not be able to help people who have lost touch with pension entitlements built up before 1975.

"It will become an increasingly valuable tool for individuals to trace where their benefits have been preserved from 1975. At time goes on, people want to know where bits of their pension are lodged. Eventually it will be possible to help people trace back pensions 30 or 40 years. But first we must ensure that all schemes lodge with the register and give details of the history of their schemes, and that all past names are recorded."

The task of putting the 400,000 schemes on computer will begin early next year.

## Opas rules against the trustees over scoring penalties on the transfer list

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

THE Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) held its last annual meeting as a charity yesterday and reported a dramatic increase in the number of requests for help. Next year it is to become a government-funded body, but will still offer independent advice to members of pension schemes.

The main concern among the 3,500 cases referred to the service this year was the length of time taken to obtain quotes for a transfer value from an occupational pension when an employee is changing jobs, and the time it takes for a transfer to take place. Transfer values were in some cases recalculated before payment, causing disappointment.

Similar complaints came from people who decided to retire early after being given details of their pension, only to find when it was too late to change their minds that the sum would be a lot less.

In one case, a man who was made redundant in 1988 applied for an early pension from his fiftieth birthday in 1989. The fund administrators quoted a pension of £3,078. In April 1989, one month after the first payment of the pension was due, the man was told that "the basis of the calculation was to be adjusted to be consistent with current market conditions". The original pension was only £846 a year.

After intervention by Opas the trustees agreed to grant the early retirement pension originally quoted, backdated to 1989.

Some of the problems arose because advice was given, in the early stages, by a member of staff who was not fully conversant with the pension scheme, said Margaret Grainger, Opas chairman.

A new problem, "experienced many times", arose from short-lived money-purchase contracted-out schemes. Once the impact of the commission had been taken into account the funds were exhausted when the premiums to the state scheme had been paid out.

Scheme members received neither additional benefits nor refunds of their contributions. Miss Grainger said that members were only promised

the product of the investment. They were not told how the administration was working.

"Individuals are not told the complexity of the front-end charges, and when they left or when the scheme folded they were not paid anything."

The cases were a cause of considerable concern. "It is numerically coming out as a high element," she said.

Another serious problem was the number of companies that deducted pension payments from wages but did not hand them over to the pension scheme.

Terence Brand, deputy chairman, said: "Quite a large number of companies are wound down. Possibly the last priority is the payments to the pension scheme. The insurance companies say the trustees are responsible. Often they are in the invidious position of being employees as well as trustees."

• Company pension schemes must change the way they treat early leavers or risk mass desertions. Pensions and Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) told a seminar set up to answer what is wrong with transfer values (Barbara Ellis writes).

This comes at a time when pension providers have begun to see transfers as an expanding business. This year, only the second in which transfers from company schemes to personal pensions have been possible, switches of this kind could top £3 billion, yielding commis-

sions of £120 million for a transfer value must be at least equal to the member's contributions.

PIRC advised to unions and local authorities, and that transfer problems affect almost all schemes, not just a bad handful, and identified younger people as the main losers.

The basic defect is that pension schemes are generally designed to benefit employees who stay with one company for life, ignoring the fact that most people expect to change jobs at least once before retiring.

Laws aimed at protecting job changers have proved largely ineffective, though the poor treatment usually becomes apparent only when benefits are

# Bouts of calm after wrestling with Mammon

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Stanley Kalms

My dad had a terrifically good name and I had a lot of luck. It was all about buying, still is. I was a good buyer and worked at getting good merchandise. The breakthrough came on my first trip to the Far East in 1958. I discovered a wonderland in Japan."

There are those in the City who believe Dixons' philosophy has changed little since the early days. It was swept along on the back of the electronics boom and has suffered in the downturns.

"He is not a serene individual," says Rabbi Sacks. "He is not even searching for serenity. He loves argument and there is nothing like a conflict for bringing out the best in him. He is a man of contagious energy with a remarkable passion for ideas. He has a fascination with intellectual challenges which I find awe-inspiring. He likes nothing better than the clash of minds. He mellows at 11.30pm when he's had a cigar and a glass of whisky but I wouldn't say he is relaxed."

Nigel Wilson, finance director of Stanhope Properties, who worked closely with Kalms at Dixons, agrees. "Stanley sees ambiguity and inconstancy as virtues. He will argue passionately from one point of view one day and equally passionately from the opposite viewpoint the next."

Kalms readily admits to an aggressive nature but nowadays it is more professional than personal. "I'm still as aggressive as ever but I have to turn it on. It's more of an act today. It wasn't an act for the first 20 years in management but you learn you can get just as much from being nice as from being aggressive."

The aggressive side of his personality may have upset employees who felt the sharp edge of his tongue but it is unlikely Kalms would be where he is today had he not been an angry young man. Nigel Wilson says: "Stanley loves the theatre of argument. Once you realise that, and if you are a bit resilient, you can understand the shouting and name calling. He's not a person to hold a grudge. Deep down he is a very caring man. If Stanley gave you a bollocking you knew he cared."

It is hard to believe that Dixons, which is perceived as one of the most aggressive retail groups and one of the most challenging businesses to work for, started off as a photographic studio in the Edgware Road where, every Saturday, a dozen naked, screaming infants would pose on a fur rug. Kalms joined his father's shop in 1948 at the age of 16 but had been interested in business from an early age, his father finding him at nine in a small stamp business.

Neither father nor son had any photographic skills and Stanley Kalms confesses today to being unable to use a word processor. But he soon realised that the way forward was to sell cameras rather than portraits. The challenge was finding the stock. "It was a sellers market. There was insatiable demand and not much competition. I started with the advantage that

bid was rightly hailed as a triumph and it threw Dixons, which was floated on the stock market in 1970, into the limelight.

But the integration of the two retailers was disastrous. Kalms admitted: "We took over a company dramatically bigger than ourselves and we made one or two fundamental errors. Of all the years we've been in business they were the most difficult. I didn't work on my instincts and allowed two groups to develop within the company."

Dixons and Currys had separate management teams and eventually became each other's biggest competitor. They had incompatible computers and when the problem was finally corrected, Currys' system was scrapped.

Kalms says: "There was a concept then called parallel retailing which shows how important it is not to listen to popular garbage. Everyone was into it, even Ralph Lauren was doing it. Nowadays I can't think of anything more nonsensical than that philosophy, but we believed in it then. It took a couple of years for the problems to come to light and a year to pull it back and create two separate identities with one management. I won't say it was too late, but time

was wasted. Nowadays Dixons and Currys are complementary to each other, not competitive."

Not only did Kalms sort out the fundamental problems in his business but he also set about improving his relationship with the City. "I have to admit I'd never paid that much attention to it," he says. "It was a good relationship but I'd never fostered it. Then it started to slip and I had no base." He took the chance of Kingfisher's recent £5.8 million bid for Dixons, which the Monopolies Commission blocked, to refocus his image. His honesty about past mistakes impressed the institutions and he has also convinced them of his future plans. Having been out of favour for some time, Dixons is now seen as one of the retail sector's best recovery stocks even though profits are set to fall this year.

But while the bid from Kingfisher has given Kalms renewed vigour, he has grave doubts about hostile takeovers. "Geoff Mulcahy and I should be ashamed of ourselves. We've now spent £40 million on a couple of little skirmishes. At the end of the day you're only talking to 30 institutions, so why spend £10 million defending and £15 million attacking. The thing is ludicrous," he says.

He is optimistic that in future Dixons will be involved in agreed mergers rather than hostile bids. "There is a degree of machismo in hostile takeovers. You're dragged into the bloody arena by merchant banks. It's the wrong way and is idiotically expensive. You are driven by arithmetic and common sense goes out the window."

Good on buying at the right price but don't ask him to work it: Stanley Kalms readily admits he is not happy with technology

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He is not ruled out the possibility of moving outside electrical retailing and believes he has something to contribute to the

consumer durables market. He was initially attracted to Kingfisher by the prospect of B&Q and the challenge of Woolworths. He has also cast his eye over British Home Stores and MFI in the past. "I was keen on the DIY market originally. I wouldn't do it today, but furniture is also a business within there is compatibility."

He feels confident about the future despite several tough years ahead for electrical retailing in Britain, but there are questions with which he is grappling. He hints that if Kingfisher had

been less belligerent in its approach for Dixons and had proposed a merger, the bid may have turned out differently. "Managements should talk and see if they can come together. If we had spoken properly, it might have made a very sensible merger," he says. He has plans to make inroads into Continental Europe in the

tended family, which now includes five grandchildren, meets up once a week for a meal. All 13 go on an annual skiing holiday. Kalms taught all his grandchildren to ski and says the holiday with them is the highlight of his year. His wife Pamela, to whom he has been married for 37 years, says: "He's the patriarch of the family. We all look to him. We both feel that the family unit is the most important thing." His sons all live within a mile of his Stanmore home.

"He is a very shy man," says Mrs Kalms. "I think his aggression may come from his shyness. He underrates himself and he still gets nervous if he has to make a speech. His tolerance surprises me. The one thing he dislikes is idle chatter or distractions. He doesn't like gossip. He likes to see people contributing something."

Some believe he also has a problem with succession. He will stay with the business for some time yet but there is no obvious successor. At one point all three of his sons, Richard, Stephen and Paul were involved with the business but they have now left. Kalms confesses to being slightly disappointed that none of his sons will follow in his footsteps but says he is glad they have branched out.

His strong family bond is renowned in the City. The ex-

citement he has a flat in London's West End, where he spends an increasing amount of time going to the theatre, opera and ballet. His yacht, currently in the south of France, has a sophisticated communications system. His stake in the company is worth £6.5 million and he has private investments in property. In 1987 he was among the top ten British earners with a salary of £660,000 and though that has fallen in line with the group's profits, he earned £526,000 last year. But he has given vast amounts of money away.

Recently he told BBC's Panorama team that he had donated £100,000 of his personal wealth to the Conservative Party. In addition to funding Jewish schools, he sponsors individuals through the "Kalms Scholarships". Most of his protégés become rabbis.

Would he have made a good rabbi himself? Jonathan Sacks laughs. "He would certainly be an unorthodox one." But he rejects Kalms' description of himself as "unspiritual". "He is a much more spiritual person than he realises.

There is an unresolved conflict in the heart of Stanley Kalms. I do not know what it is. I don't think he does, but it is the source of his energy. He has great things still to do and great things still to discover about himself."



## Sweet and sour taste of change

### CAPITAL CITY

ALAN TILLIER IN VANCOUVER



Booze: downtown Vancouver

Crews in their wake. But traditional British property interests, as represented by Grosvenor Group, owned by the Duke of Westminster, and Lang, have been overshadowed by new money in Hong Kong.

Mr Li Ka-Shing, one of the world's richest men whose interests include property, telecoms, containers, retailing and energy, has joined with two fellow Hong Kong billionaires to buy the city centre Expo site of 166 acres plus 38 acres of "water lots" for the relative bargain price of Cm5325 million (£144 million). He plans to spend £1 billion or more on 7,600 residential units, three million square feet of offices, plus parks and day care centres – the border by car, plane and cruise ships with film and television

biggest North American city development since New York's Battery Park.

Mr Li, aged 63, his sons and business associates are very much yacht people, as opposed to boat people, and are wisely covering their bets ahead of the 1997 cession of Hong Kong to China. There is a similar life across the Pacific as they wait to see how Chinese policy towards the colony evolves. Other Hong Kong entrepreneurs and investors, comfortable though not in the same league, have bought their way into Vancouver through the official Canadian business immigration scheme: a quarter of a million pounds in proven assets plus a willingness to invest half in Vancouver.

Several thousand new Chinese-Canadian citizens have arrived in this way since Expo 86. The immigration authorities are raising the investment "ante" to about £160,000, but this is not expected to halt the flow into Vancouver's best residential neighbourhoods. Some English-style homes have been acquired by the newcomers, demolished and replaced by walled, modern properties utilising every inch of ground.

Among the Hong Kong chefs who have upped and left for Vancouver is the famous Lam Kam Sing, now serving his sucking pig and deep fried shrimps at the Dynasty restaurant. But Vancouver's traditional Chinatown, the biggest outside Asia after San Francisco, has attracted some different kinds of investors – members of Hong Kong's 14k triad crime syndicate, who are into protection, gambling, prostitution and "China white" heroin rather than telecoms and the like.

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Remember that the price of units and shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount that you invest. The value of any tax relief depends on the individual circumstances of the investor. Please note that tax legislation may change.

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